

THORCAL

The Land of Qa

ROSINSKI - VAN HAMME

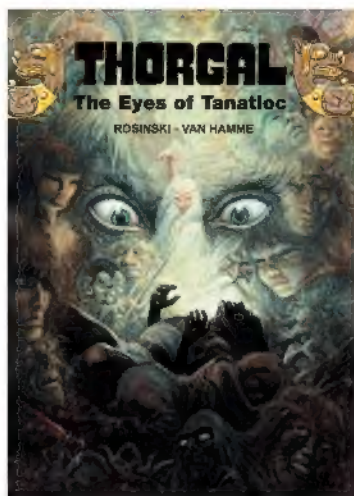
ROSINSKI-VAN HAMME

THORGAL

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With the authors' consent, and in order not to upset our more sensitive readers, certain illustrations of this edition of *Thorgal* have been modified.
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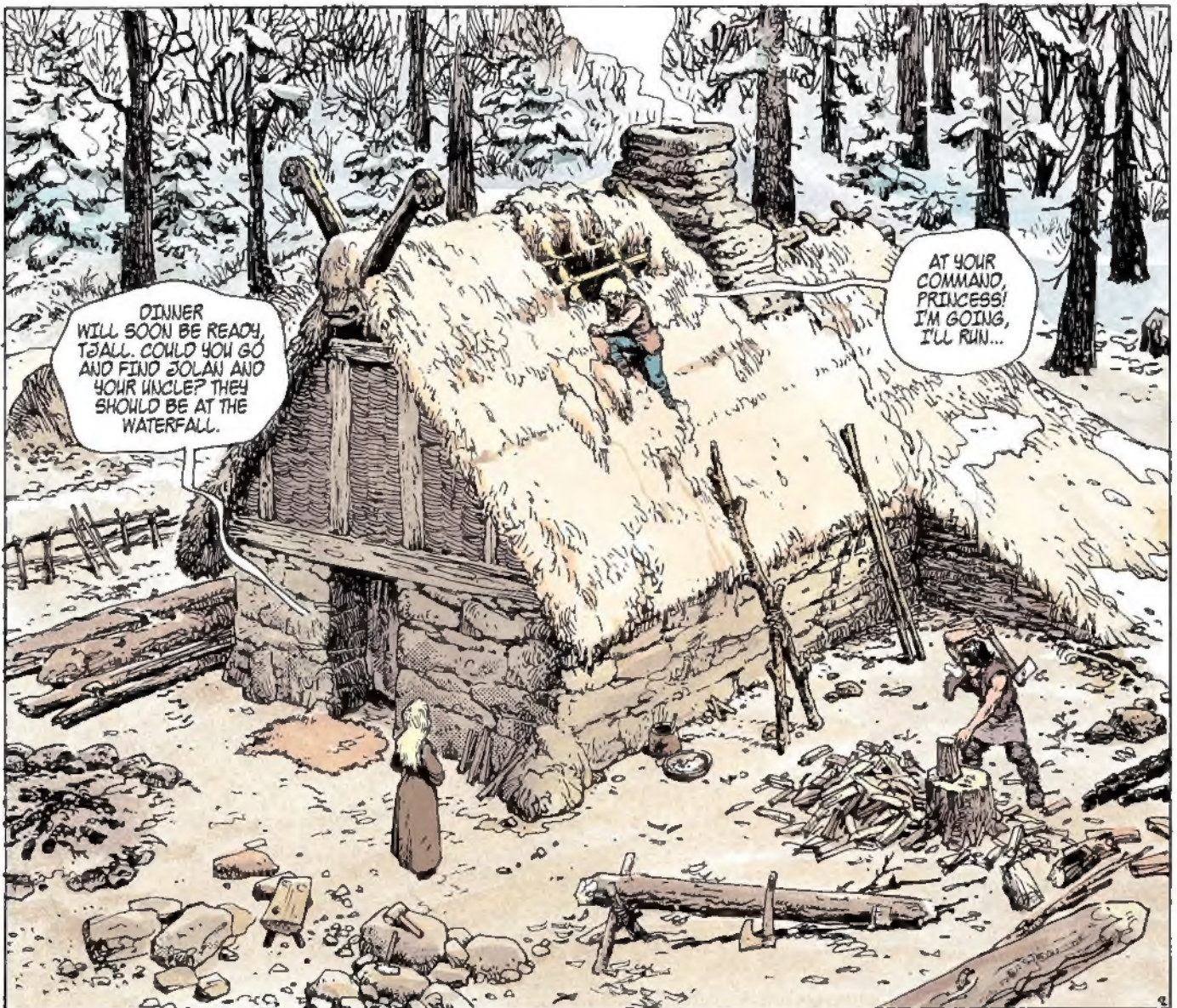
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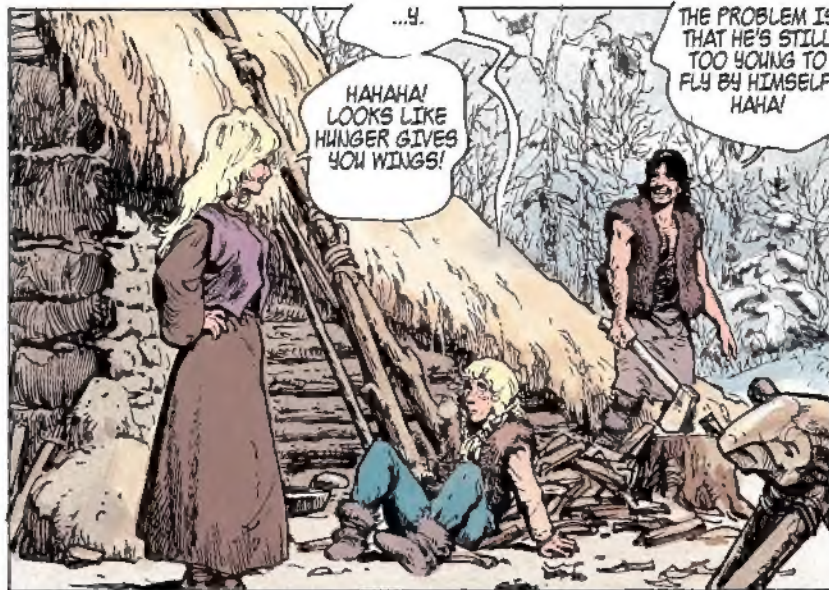
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I'll flyyy



...4.

Hahaha!
Looks like
hunger gives
you wings!

THE PROBLEM IS
THAT HE'S STILL
TOO YOUNG TO
FLY BY HIMSELF,
HAHA!



TREE FOOT,
WHY DO YOU
WANT TO
LEAVE
WITH TJALL
TOMORROW?

BECAUSE
I HAVE TO,
JOLAN...



YOUR HOUSE IS
NEARLY REBUILT AND
IT'S HIGH TIME I WENT
BACK TO LOOKING
AFTER MY OWN
BUSINESS. YOU
UNDERSTAND?

OF
COURSE I
UNDERSTAND...

GRRRR



BUT I WOULD HAVE
PREFERRED THAT
YOU WERE STAYING
HERE WITH US FOR
THE WINTER. THAT
WAY, YOU COULD
HAVE CARRIED ON
TEACHING ME
TO SHOOT.

YOUR FATHER
CAN DO THAT A LOT
BETTER THAN I CAN,
YOUNG MAN. AND
WE'LL SURELY SEE
EACH OTHER
AGAIN ONE OF
THESE DAYS.



AH, THERE'S THE LAST ONE...
IF MY STOMACH'S CRIES ARE
ANYTHING TO GO BY, IT'S HIGH
TIME TO HEAD BACK AND
HONOUR THE CULINARY
TALENTS OF THE
BEAUTIFUL AARICIA...



MUFF? ...
COME ON, MUFF,
WE'RE GOING...
MUFF? ...



MUFF?!?

OUR FRIENDS ARE LEAVING US TOMORROW, THORGAL. WE'LL BE JUST LIKE WE WERE BEFORE, JUST YOU, ME AND JOLAN. AND THE ISLAND.

DOES THAT WORRY YOU?

NO—ON THE CONTRARY, I'M HAPPY. HAPPY TO SPEND THIS WINTER IN THE WARMTH WITH YOU, AWAY FROM THE BLOODTHIRSTY MADNESS OF MEN. HAPPY TO WATCH OUR SON GROW UP IN THE SAFETY OF THE HOME WE'VE BUILT. HAPPY TO WAIT WITH YOU FOR SPRING TO BLOOM ON OUR ISLAND... I LOVE YOU SO MUCH, THORGAL.

I LOVE YOU TOO, AARICIA. MORE THAN THE GODS. MORE THAN LIFE.



JOLAAAAAN...
TREE
FOOOOOT!...

IS... IS HE DEAD?

NO, JUST
UNCONSCIOUS. BUT
WHAT COULD HAVE
DONE THIS?...

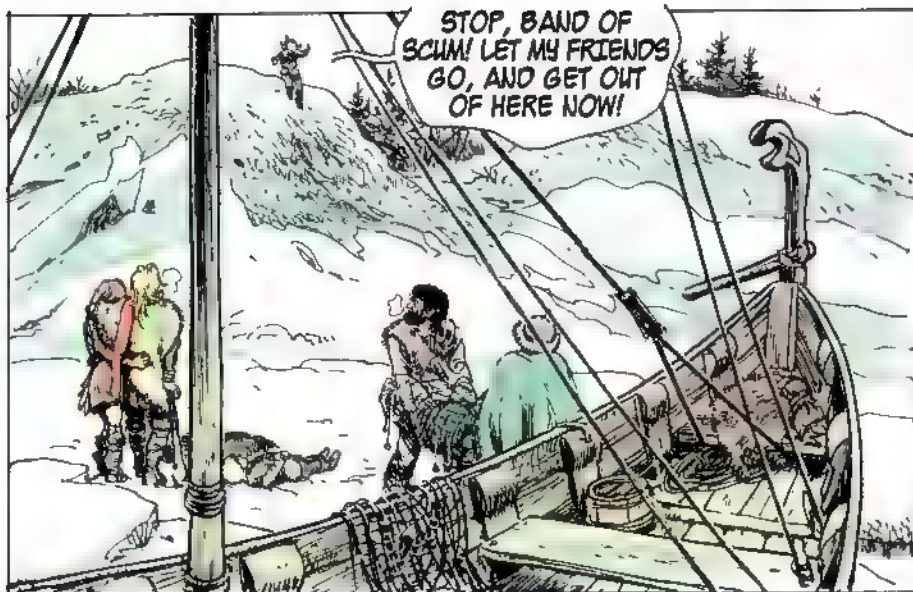
TREE FOOT!
LOOK OUT!...



RUN, JOLAN!
GO AND WARN
THOR... OW!...







STOP, BAND OF SCUM! LET MY FRIENDS GO, AND GET OUT OF HERE NOW!

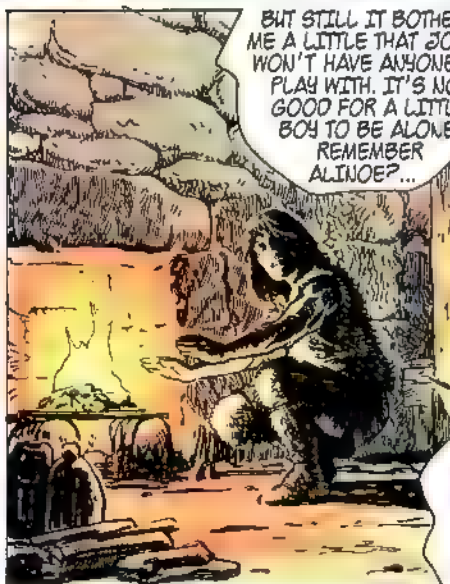


FLAG RASHNI! GLADI!

DID YOU HEAR ME? WATCH YOUR HIDES, CURSED PIRATES!



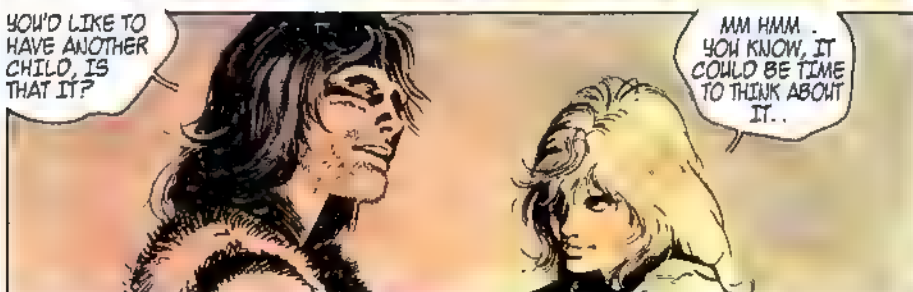
YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'VE BEEN FOOLISH ENOUGH TO ATTACK!...



BUT STILL IT BOTHERS ME A LITTLE THAT JOLAN WON'T HAVE ANYONE TO PLAY WITH. IT'S NOT GOOD FOR A LITTLE BOY TO BE ALONE. REMEMBER ALINOE?...

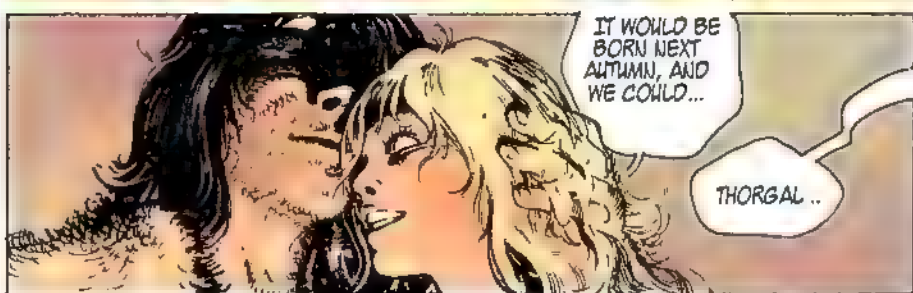


HOW CAN I FORGET HIM? I SEE ONLY ONE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM...



YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE ANOTHER CHILD, IS THAT IT?

MM HMM... YOU KNOW, IT COULD BE TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT...

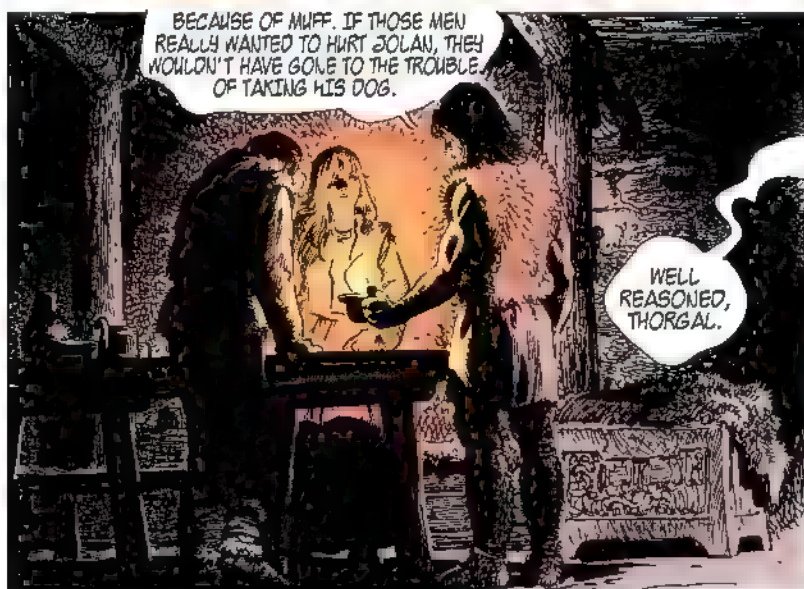
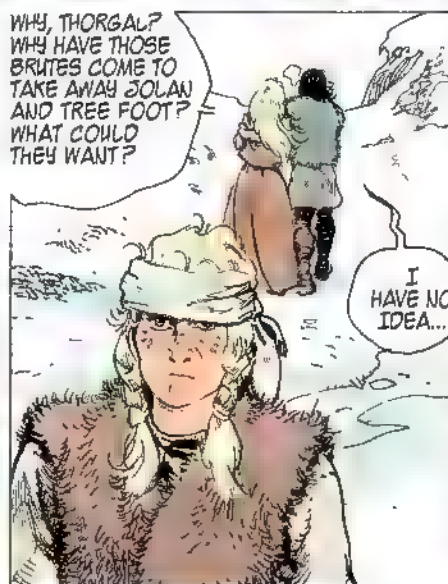


IT WOULD BE BORN NEXT AUTUMN, AND WE COULD...

THORGAL...



??



KRISS
OF
VALNOR!

OH, DON'T SAY IT:
I CAN TELL YOU'RE
DELIGHTED TO SEE
ME AGAIN.

DAMNED
BITCH! WHAT
HAVE YOU DONE
WITH MY SON
AND TREE
FOOT?

THEIR
LIVES ARE
IN MY HANDS,
THORGAL.
NEVER
FORGET THAT!

MUCH BETTER. YOU
NEARLY RUINED MY
NEW HAIRSTYLE. I HOPE
THAT YOU LIKE IT, AT
LEAST? NO? NEVER
MIND...

AND YOU, T3ALL THE FIERY?
DO YOUR LIPS STILL HOLD
THE MEMORY OF MY KISS?...
YOU'RE INJURED, OH DEAR!
LUCKY THAT I'LL BE HERE
TO HEAL YOU.

O... DON'T
TOUCH
ME...

OH, OF COURSE, MEN WILL ALWAYS
HAVE THEIR LOU7ISH WAYS IN WHICH WE
SEE THEIR REAL, PRIMITIVE MUSCLEMAN
STATE. DON'T YOU THINK SO, MY DEAR?
AARICIA, IS IT? ...

YOUR COUNTRY GIRL ISN'T BAD, THORGAL.
A BIT DULL FOR MY TASTE AND NOT
VERY TALKATIVE, BUT QUITE
PRETTY...

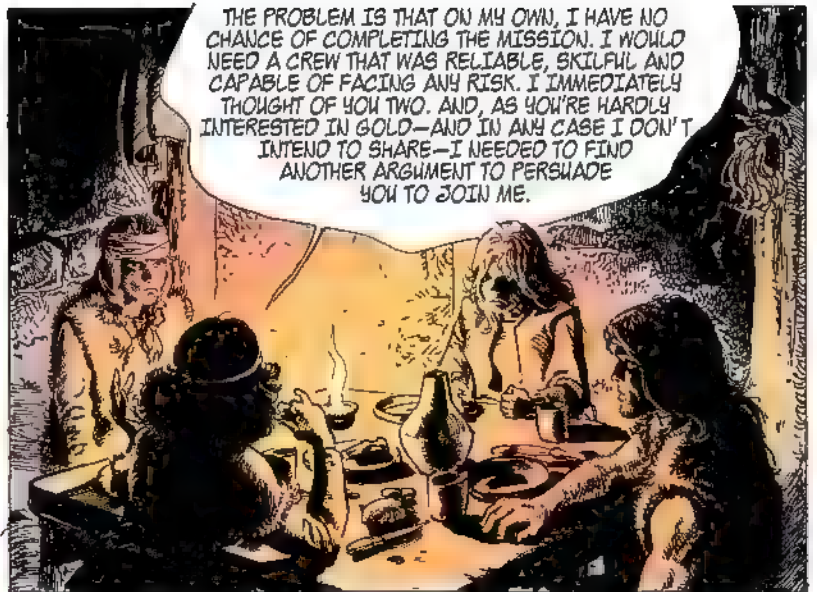
STOP THIS
GAME AND GET
TO THE POINT.
WHAT DO YOU
WANT FROM
US?

ALREADY? AFTER ALL THE EFFORT I MADE TO FIND
YOU, I'LL ADMIT I EXPECTED A WARMER WELCOME
WELL... I'LL EXPLAIN IT ALL TO YOU OVER THE MEAL
THAT YOU'LL SURELY HAVE THE GOOD SENSE
TO SERVE ME...

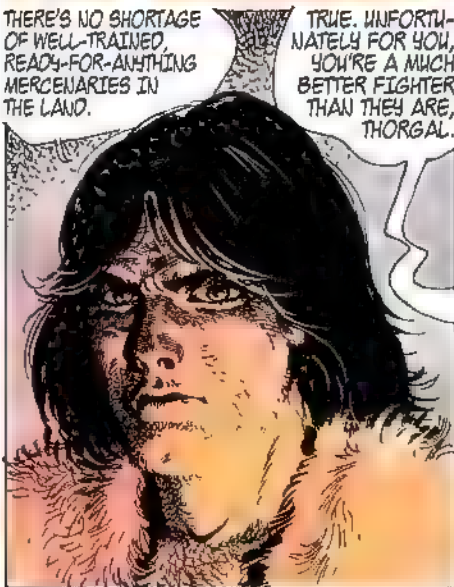
ENOUGH!



IT'S VERY SIMPLE. A RICH AND POWERFUL PERSON GAVE ME A MISSION. A DANGEROUS ONE, OF COURSE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE. BUT IF I'M SUCCESSFUL, THE COMPENSATION IS WORTH THE DIFFICULTIES. IT'S ENORMOUS. I LOVE GOLD AND THE CHALLENGE. SO I ACCEPTED.

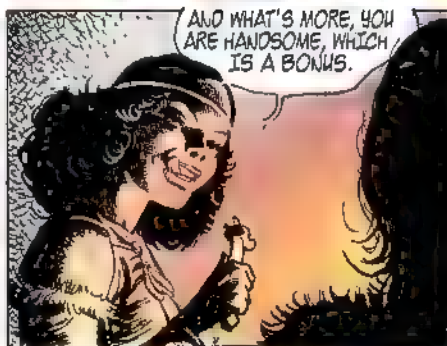


THE PROBLEM IS THAT ON MY OWN, I HAVE NO CHANCE OF COMPLETING THE MISSION. I WOULD NEED A CREW THAT WAS RELIABLE, SKILFUL AND CAPABLE OF FACING ANY RISK. I IMMEDIATELY THOUGHT OF YOU TWO. AND, AS YOU'RE HARDLY INTERESTED IN GOLD—AND IN ANY CASE I DON'T INTEND TO SHARE—I NEEDED TO FIND ANOTHER ARGUMENT TO PERSUADE YOU TO JOIN ME.



THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF WELL-TRAINED READY-FOR-ANYTHING MERCENARIES IN THE LAND.

TRUE. UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, YOU'RE A MUCH BETTER FIGHTER THAN THEY ARE, THORGAL.



AND WHAT'S MORE, YOU ARE HANDSOME, WHICH IS A BONUS.



AS FOR YOUNG TJALL, NICKNAMED FIERY, HE'S A GOOD ARCHER TOO. AND SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT HE'D BE READY TO FOLLOW ME DOWN TO THE FIRES OF HELL EVEN IF HIS UNCLE'S LIFE WASN'T AT STAKE. AM I WRONG, HANDSOME?

WHO GAVE YOU THIS MISSION? AND WHAT'S IT ABOUT?



YOU'LL LEARN IN DUE COURSE. TREE FOOT AND JOLAN WILL BE TREATED WELL THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF OUR EXPEDITION. BUT I WILL BE THE ONLY ONE TO KNOW WHERE THEY ARE. WHICH MAKES THE SITUATION DELICIOUSLY SIMPLE...

NOT ONLY WILL YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW AND OBEY ME, BUT ALSO PROTECT ME IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. FOR IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO ME, YOU'D HAVE NO HOPE OF EVER SEEING YOUR MISSING FRIEND AND SON AGAIN.



NO MORE COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS? PERFECT. WE'LL LEAVE THE ISLAND TOMORROW AT DAWN. AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT OFFERING ME HOSPITALITY FOR THE NIGHT...



... I'M USED TO SLEEPING UNDER THE STARS. GOOD-NIGHT.



WE SHOULD HAVE GRABBED HER... FORCED HER TO TALK...

EXCELLENT IDEA. I'D GLADLY HOLD HER PRETTY LITTLE FEET IN THE FLAMES. THAT CHEAP AMAZONIAN...

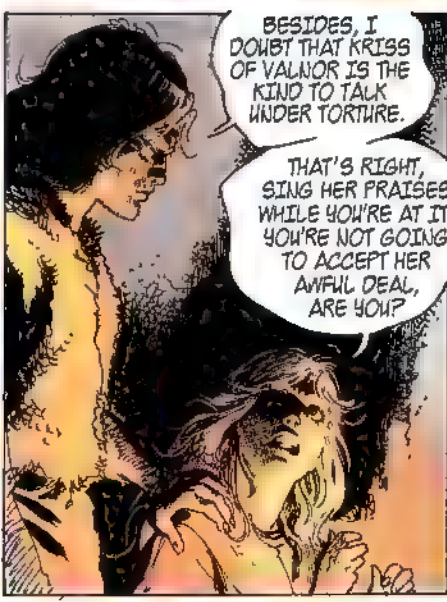


OR I'D PULL OUT HER HORRIBLE HAIR ONE STRAND AT A TIME...



IS IT REALLY YOU TALKING LIKE THAT, MY SWEET AARICIA? YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO.

BESIDES, I DOUBT THAT KRISS OF VALNOR IS THE KIND TO TALK UNDER TORTURE.

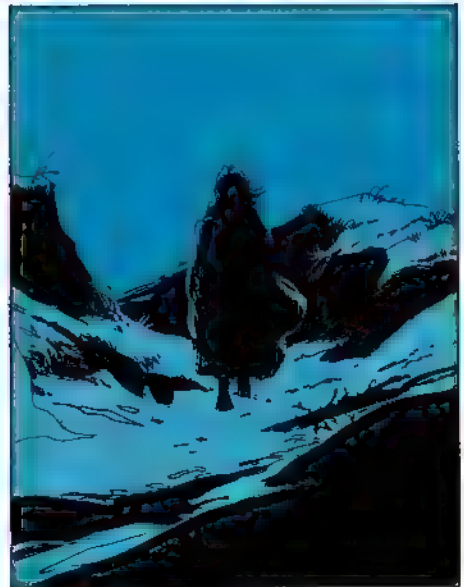
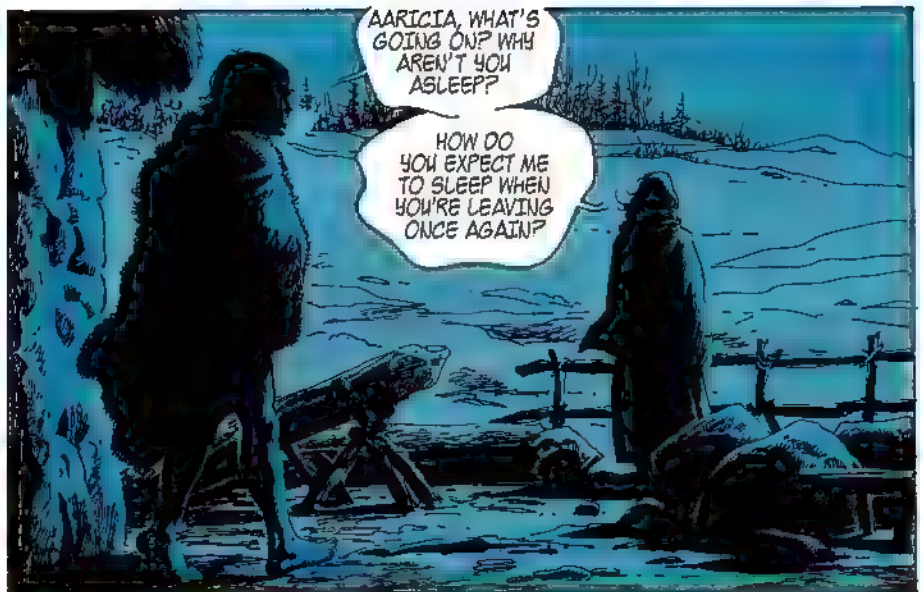


THAT'S RIGHT, SING HER PRAISES WHILE YOU'RE AT IT. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ACCEPT HER AWFUL DEAL, ARE YOU?

DO WE HAVE ANOTHER CHOICE?



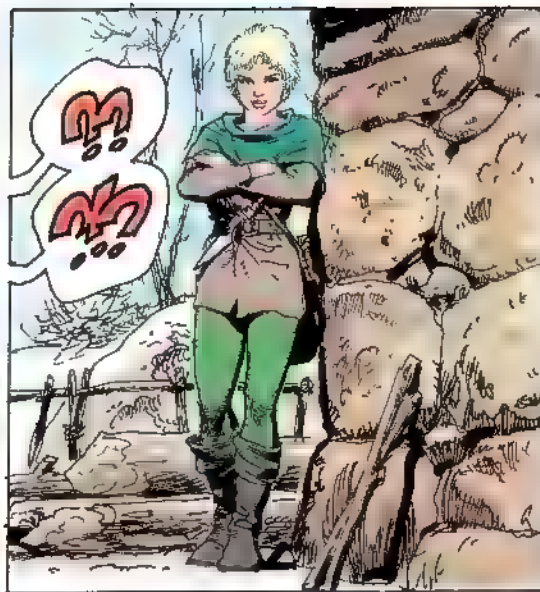
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LAUGH IF YOU WANT TO, WITCH, BUT I WON'T LEAVE WITHOUT SEEING MY WIFE.

SORRY, SWEETIE, BUT WE CAN'T WAIT ANYMORE. FORGET ABOUT THE GREAT EMOTIONAL GOODBYE SCENE.

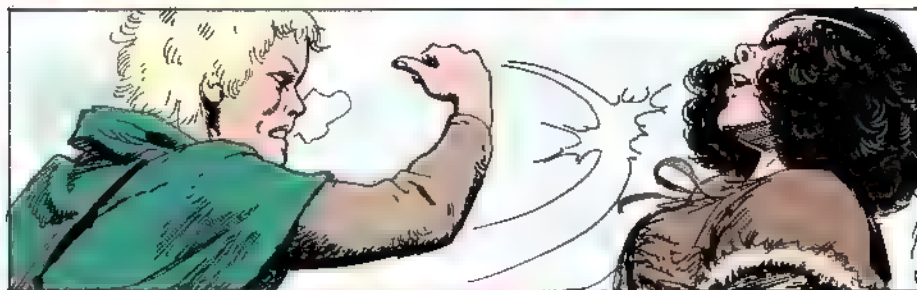
THERE WON'T BE ANY GOOD-BYES...



BUT? ... WHAT'S? ... AARICIA, YOUR HAIR? ...

WHAT, HANDSOME THORGAL, YOU DON'T LIKE MY NEW STYLE?

THAT'S TOO FUNNY! THE LITTLE COUNTRY GIRL WANTS TO COME WITH US! HAHAAH!

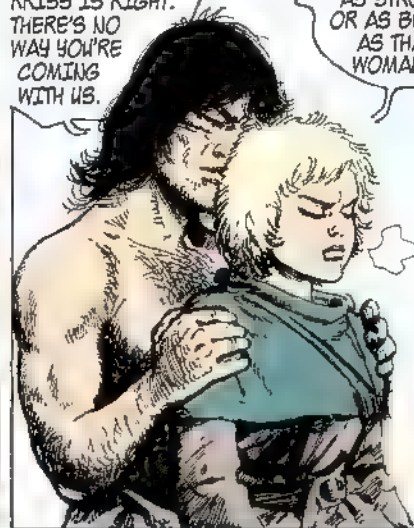




STOP!

I UNDERSTAND
YOU, MY LOVE. BUT
KRIS IS RIGHT.
THERE'S NO
WAY YOU'RE
COMING
WITH US.

DO YOU
THINK I'M NOT
AS STRONG
OR AS BRAVE
AS THAT
WOMAN?



SOLAN ISN'T
JUST YOUR
SON... HE'S
MINE, TOO.

LET HER
COME...



LET HER ACCOMPANY US IF
SHE REALLY WANTS TO. THAT
WAY, I WILL SEE HER SHAKE
WITH FEAR, HEAR HER
SCREAM WITH TERROR...



NOW
THAT THAT'S
SETTLED, LET'S
GO! WE'VE
WASTED
ENOUGH TIME
ALREADY.



AND WHO KNOWS?
I MIGHT EVEN HAVE
THE PLEASURE OF
SEEING HER
DIE.

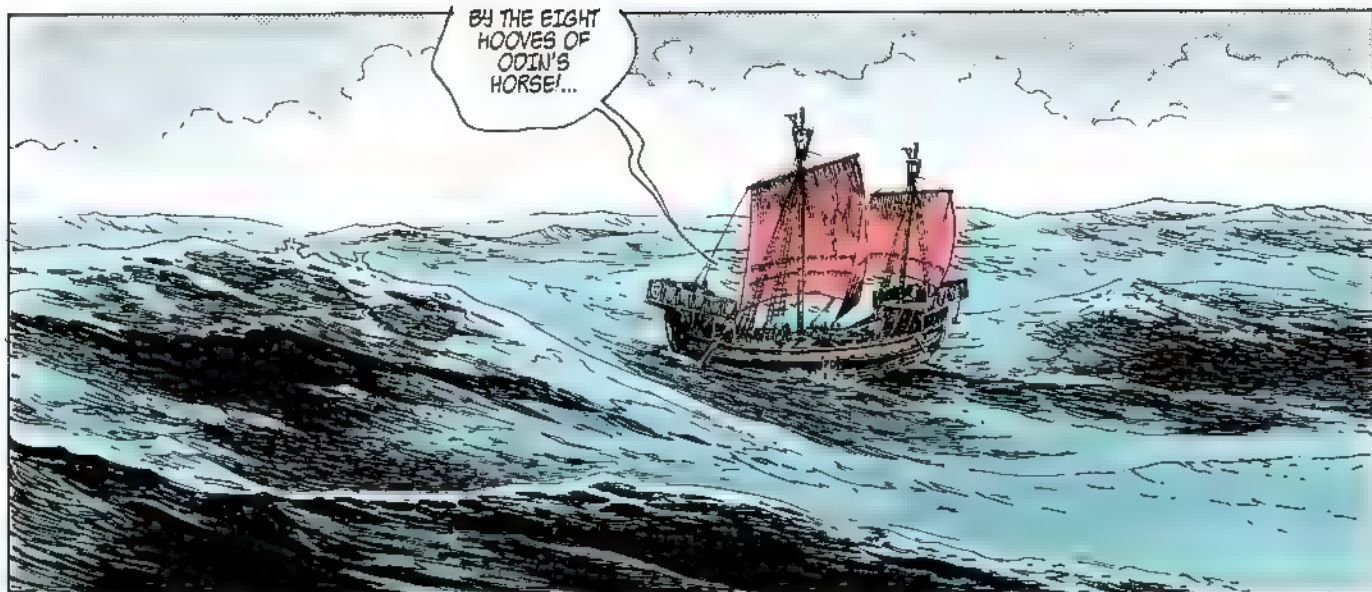


WELL, FOLKS...
THIS EXPEDITION
IS OFF TO
AN EVENTFUL
START.



RODMAN & VAN HANNE





BY THE EIGHT
HOOFES OF
ODIN'S
HORSE!...



I'D GIVE MY
WOODEN LEG TO
KNOW WHERE THESE
PIRATES ARE TAKING
US AND WHY.

AND I'D
JUST LIKE TO
GET THERE... MUFF
IS GETTING
SICKER BY
THE DAY.

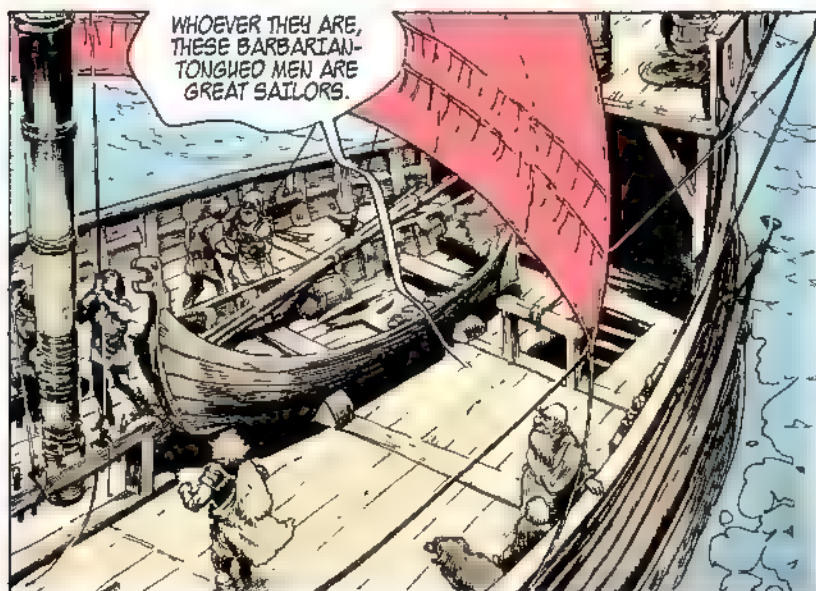


DID YOU KNOW
THAT THE SEA WAS
SO BIG?

I HAD
HEARD ABOUT
IT...



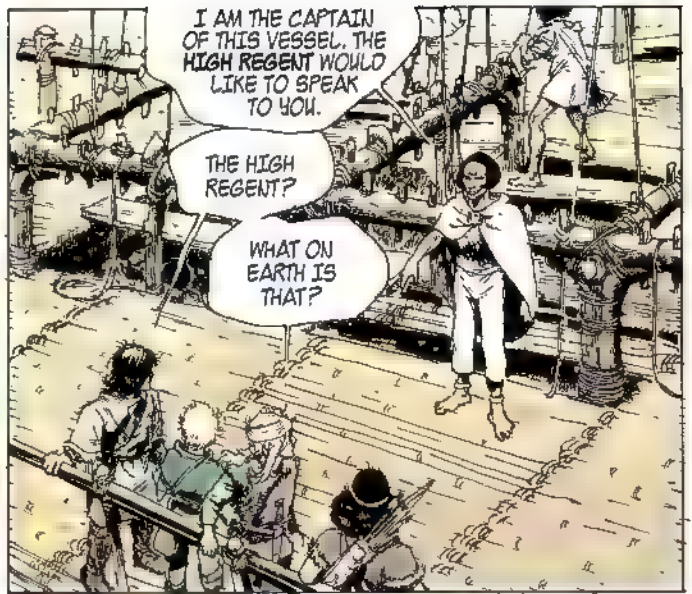
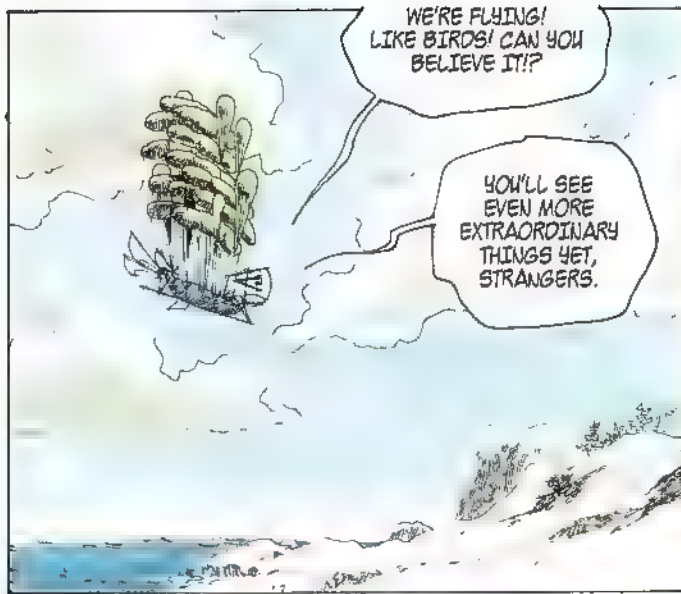
BUT I HAD
NO IDEA THAT IT
WAS POSSIBLE TO
NAVIGATE FOR SO
LONG WITHOUT
SEEING LAND

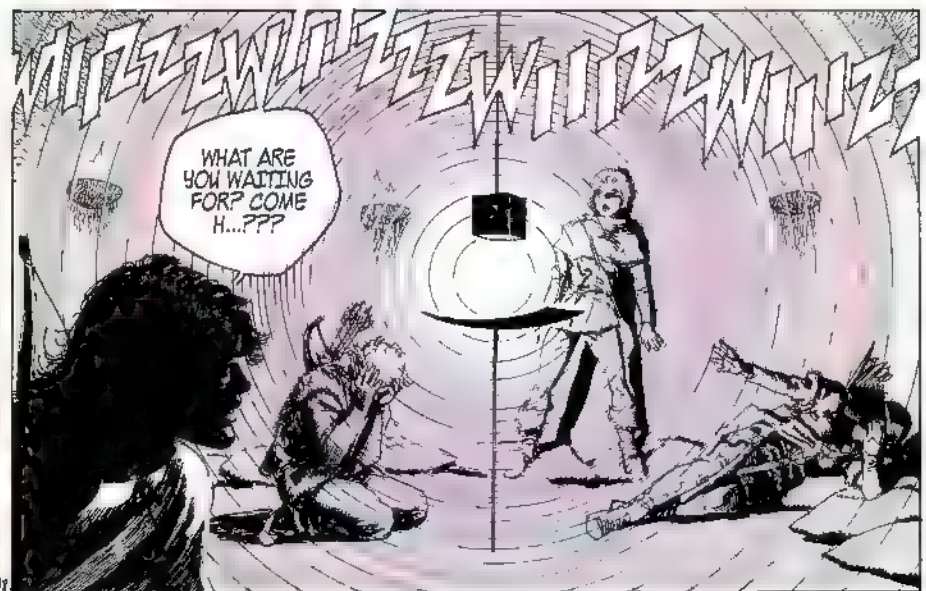


WHOEVER THEY ARE,
THESE BARBARIAN-
TONGUED MEN ARE
GREAT SAILORS.

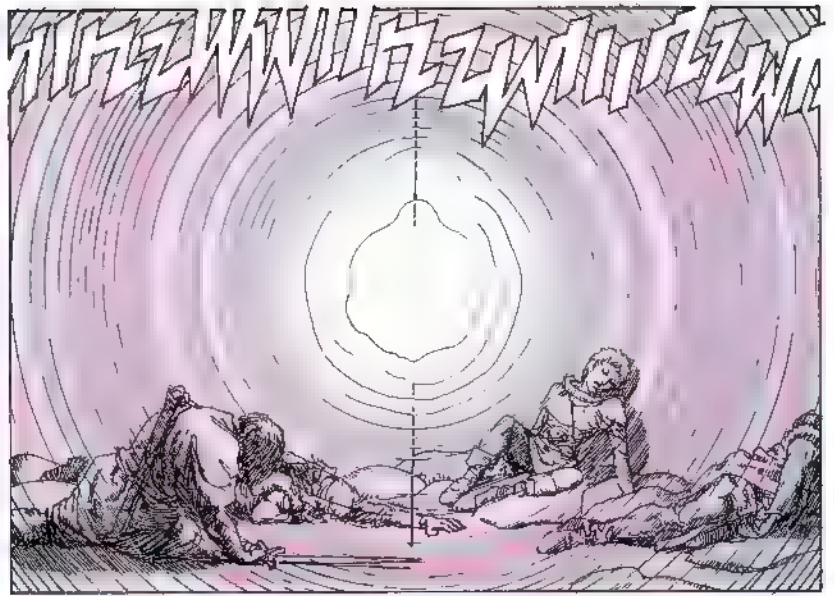


IT'S
FABULOUS!...

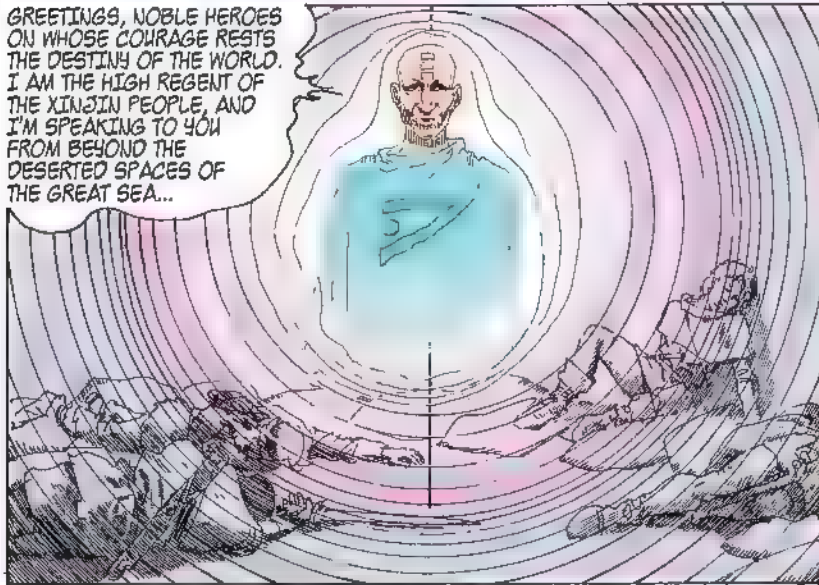




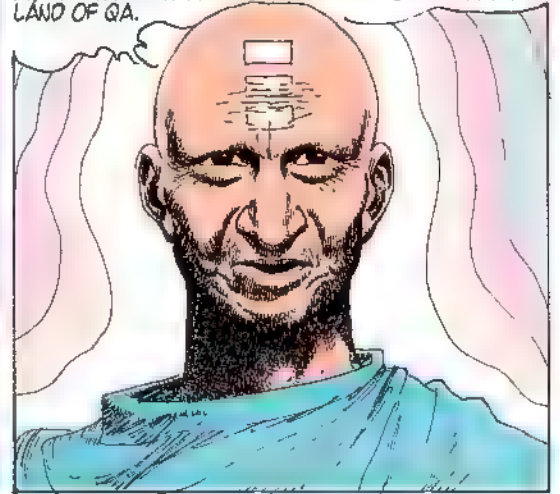
TREACHERY!
I SHOULD HAVE
KNOWN THAT IT
WAS A TR...



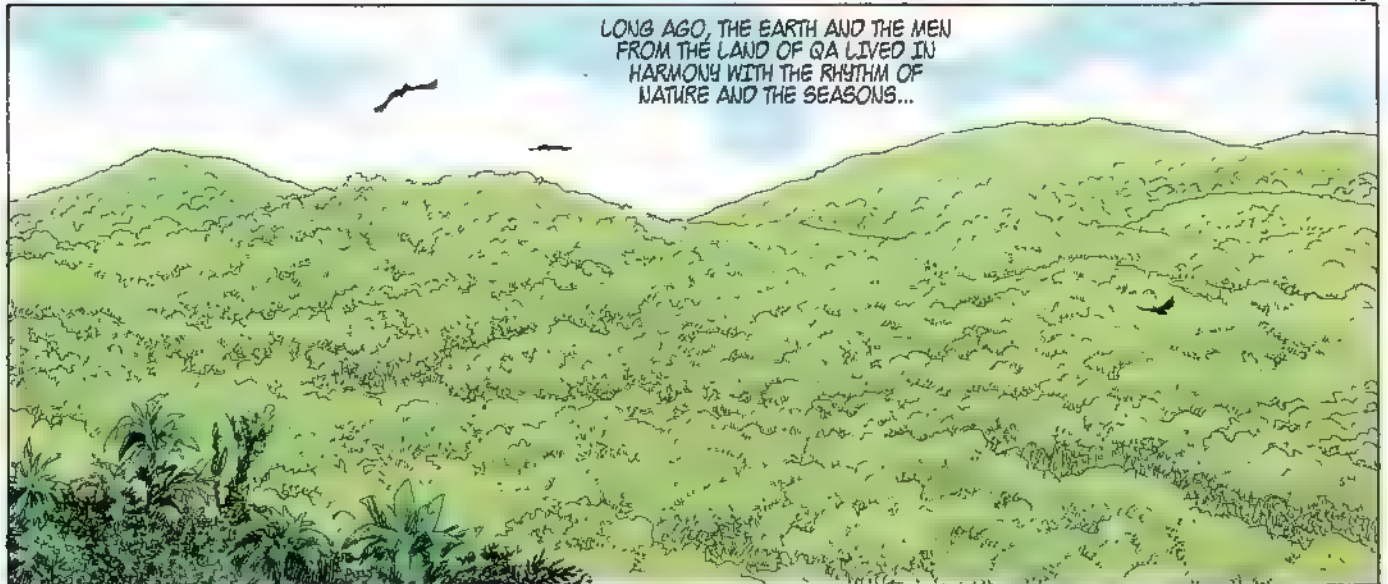
GREETINGS, NOBLE HEROES
ON WHOSE COURAGE RESTS
THE DESTINY OF THE WORLD.
I AM THE HIGH REGENT OF
THE XINJIN PEOPLE, AND
I'M SPEAKING TO YOU
FROM BEYOND THE
DESERTED SPACES OF
THE GREAT SEA...



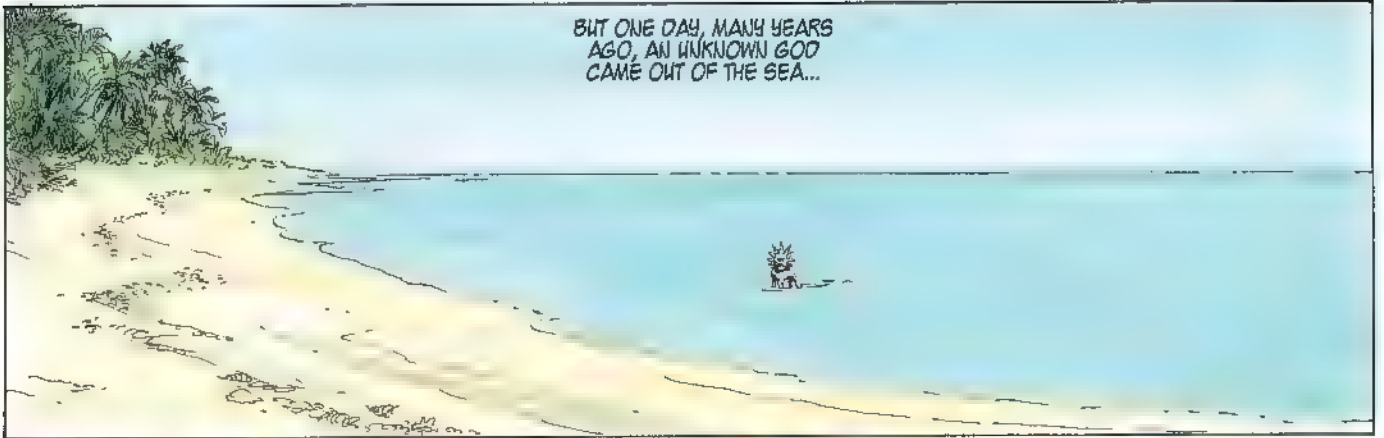
LONG WILL BE YOUR VOYAGE, AND HARD THE TASKS
THAT AWAIT YOU. BUT THESE TORMENTS WILL BE TRIVIAL
BESIDE THE HOPE THAT IS AT STAKE. TO UNDERSTAND
IT, WATCH AND LISTEN TO THE LEGEND OF THE DISTANT
LAND OF QA.



LONG AGO, THE EARTH AND THE MEN
FROM THE LAND OF QA LIVED IN
HARMONY WITH THE RHYTHM OF
NATURE AND THE SEASONS...



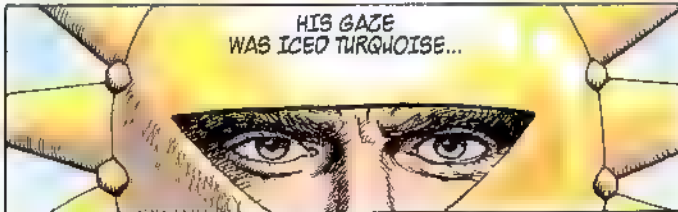
BUT ONE DAY, MANY YEARS
AGO, AN UNKNOWN GOD
CAME OUT OF THE SEA...



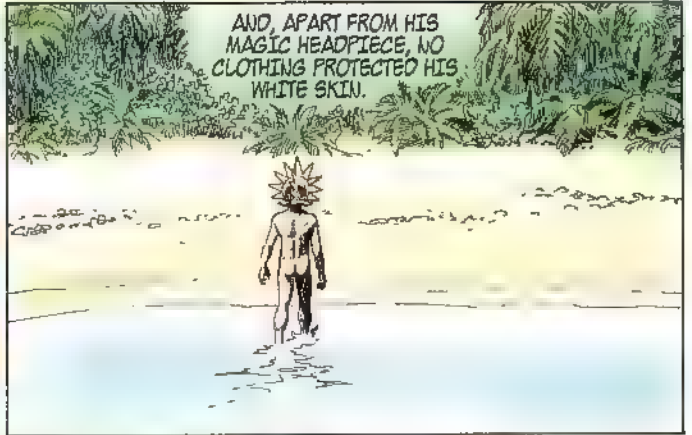
HIS BEARD AND
HIS HAIR HAD A
COPPER HUE...



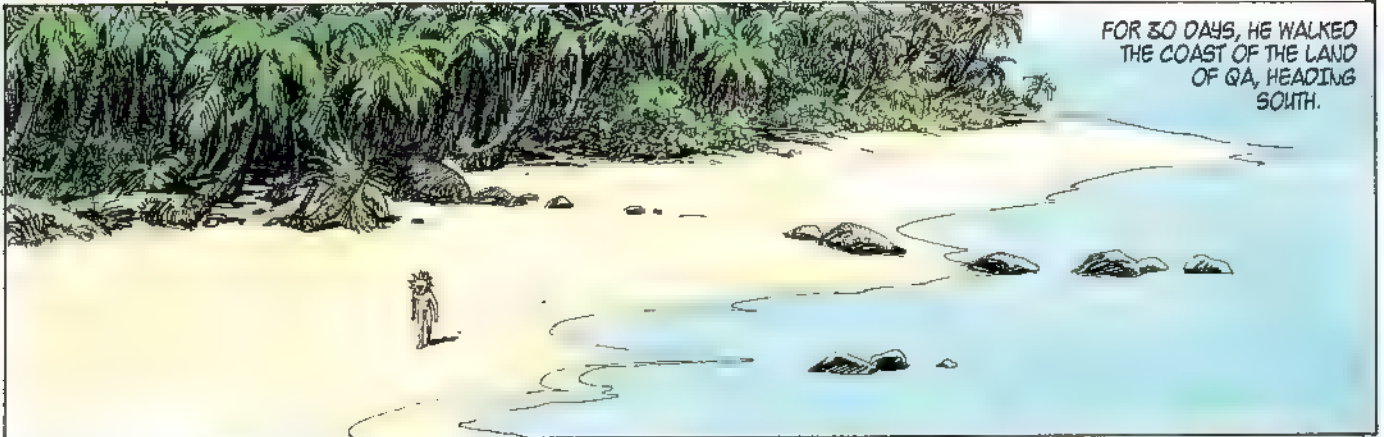
HIS GAZE
WAS ICED TURQUOISE...



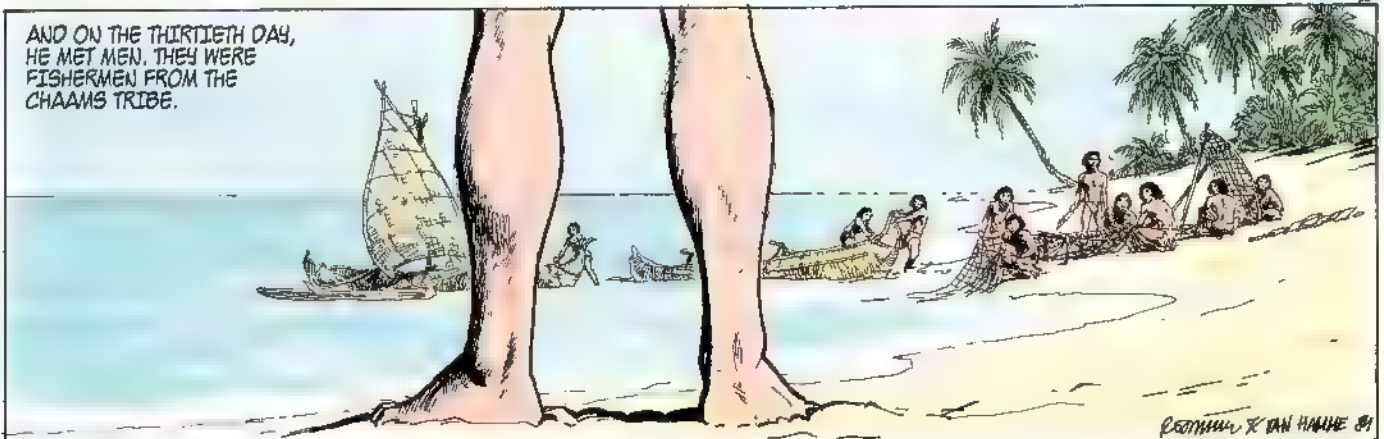
AND, APART FROM HIS
MAGIC HEADPIECE, NO
CLOTHING PROTECTED HIS
WHITE SKIN.



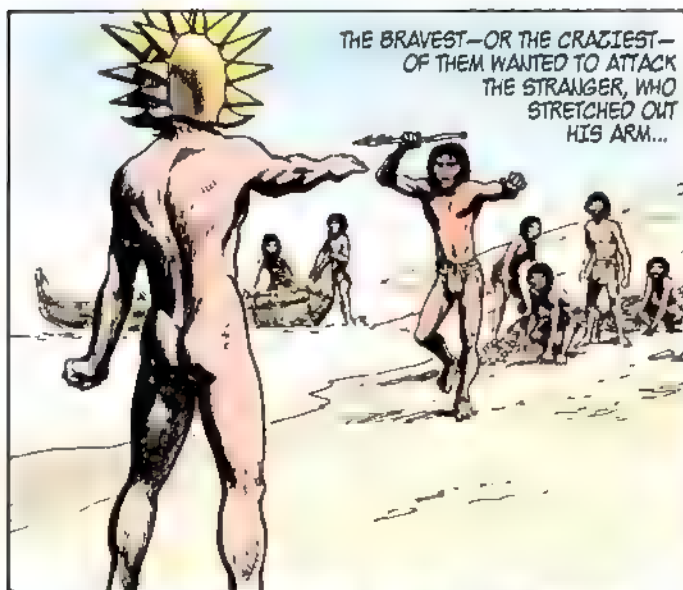
FOR 30 DAYS, HE WALKED
THE COAST OF THE LAND
OF QA, HEADING
SOUTH.



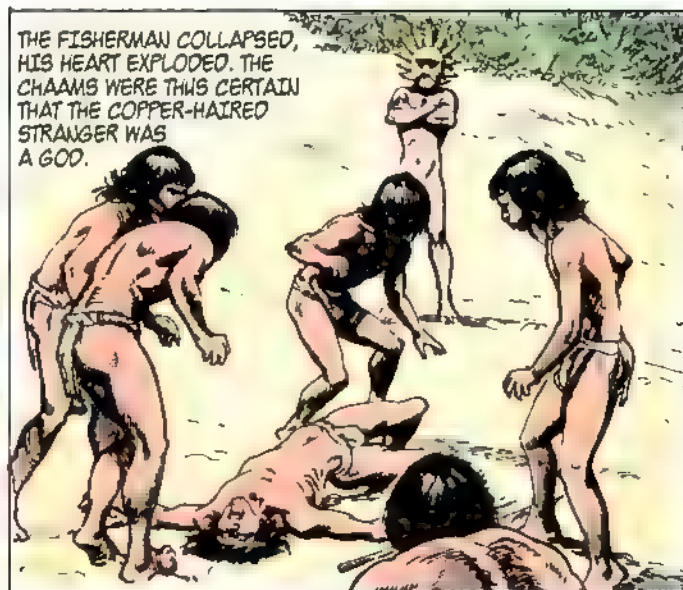
AND ON THE THIRTIETH DAY,
HE MET MEN. THEY WERE
FISHERMEN FROM THE
CHAAMS TRIBE.



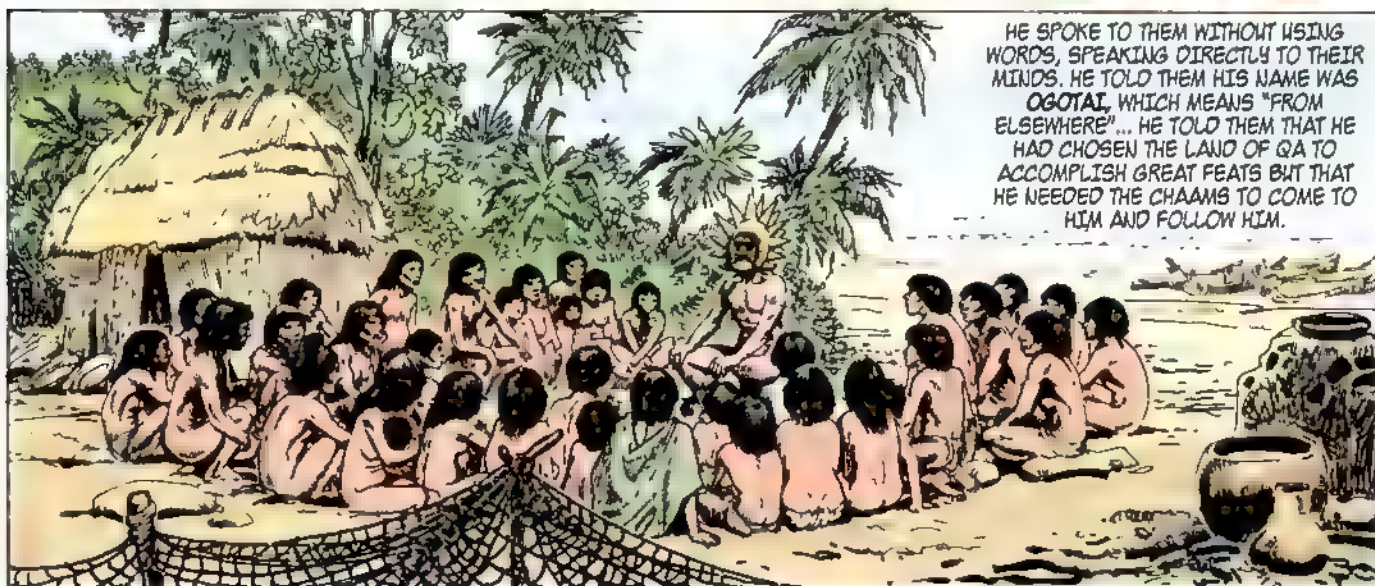
ROTHMAN & DAN HANKE '81



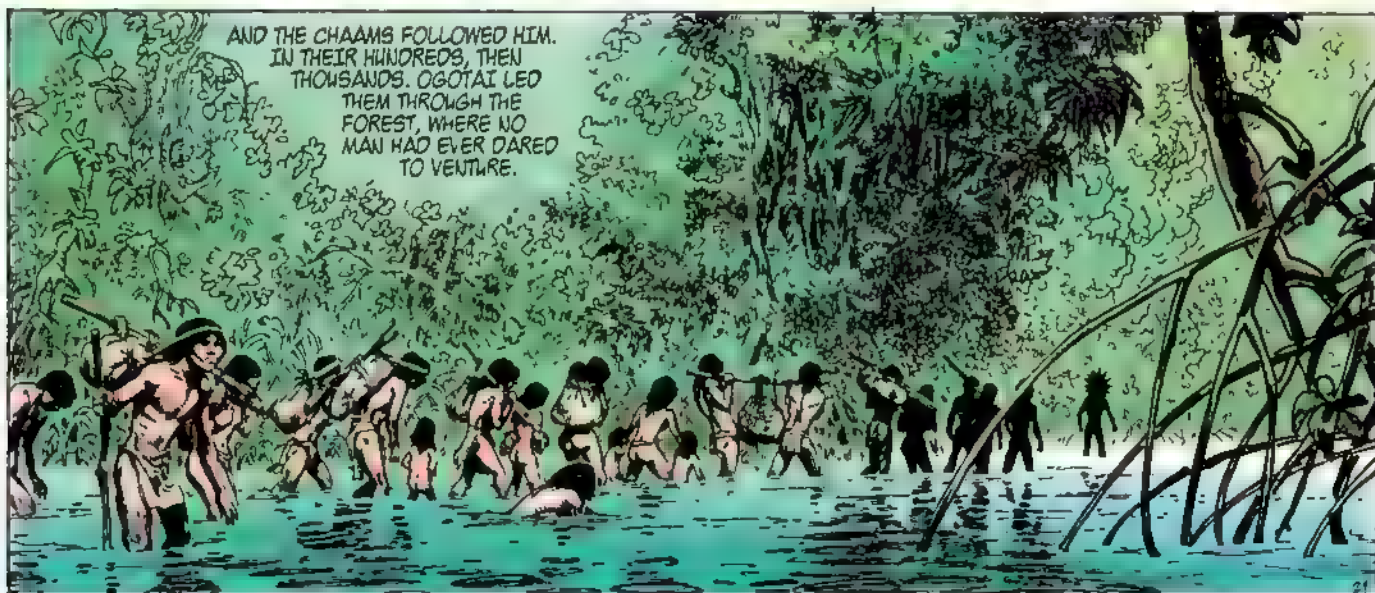
THE BRAVEST—OR THE CRAZIEST—
OF THEM WANTED TO ATTACK
THE STRANGER, WHO
STRETCHED OUT
HIS ARM...



THE FISHERMAN COLLAPSED,
HIS HEART EXPLODED. THE
CHAAMS WERE THIS CERTAIN
THAT THE COPPER-HAIRED
STRANGER WAS
A GOD.



HE SPOKE TO THEM WITHOUT USING
WORDS, SPEAKING DIRECTLY TO THEIR
MINDS. HE TOLD THEM HIS NAME WAS
OGOTAI, WHICH MEANS "FROM
ELSEWHERE"... HE TOLD THEM THAT HE
HAD CHOSEN THE LAND OF QA TO
ACCOMPLISH GREAT FEATS BUT THAT
HE NEEDED THE CHAAMS TO COME TO
HIM AND FOLLOW HIM.

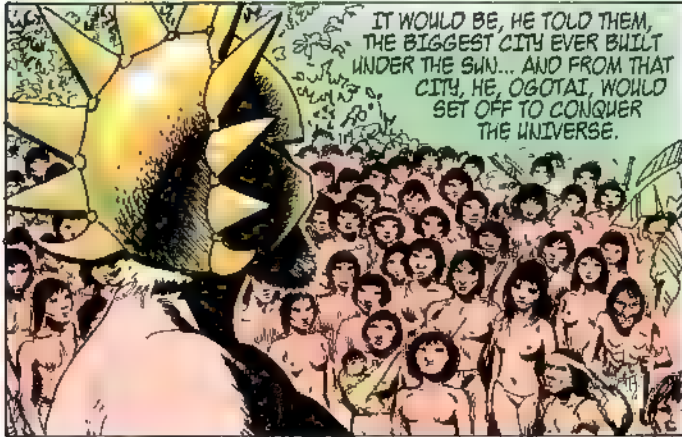


AND THE CHAAMS FOLLOWED HIM.
IN THEIR HUNDREDS, THEN
THOUSANDS, OGOTAI LED
THEM THROUGH THE
FOREST, WHERE NO
MAN HAD EVER DARED
TO VENTURE.

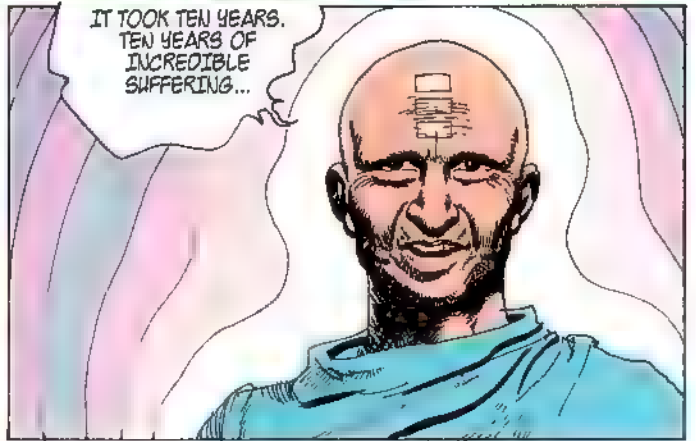
THERE, IN THE DEEPEST
HEART OF THE WILD
FOREST, HE SHOWED THE
SPOT WHERE HIS TOWN
WOULD BE BUILT.



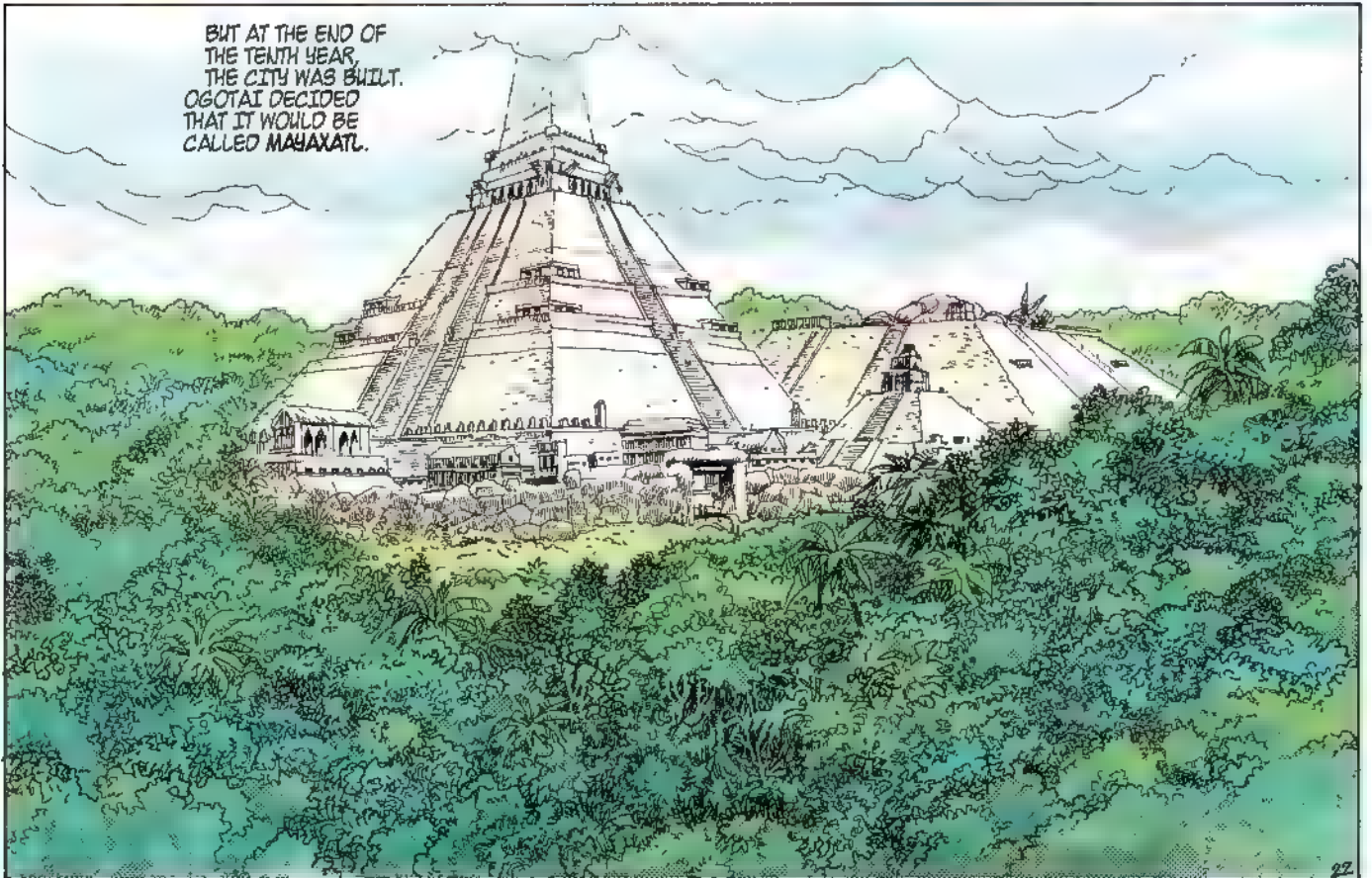
IT WOULD BE, HE TOLD THEM,
THE BIGGEST CITY EVER BUILT
UNDER THE SUN... AND FROM THAT
CITY, HE, OGOAT, WOULD
SET OFF TO CONQUER
THE UNIVERSE.



IT TOOK TEN YEARS.
TEN YEARS OF
INCREDIBLE
SUFFERING...



BUT AT THE END OF
THE TENTH YEAR,
THE CITY WAS BUILT.
OGOAT DECIDED
THAT IT WOULD BE
CALLED MAYAXATL.



SO, OGOTAI
TAUGHT THE CHAAMS
THE ART OF WAR.
HE HAD THEM MAKE
NEW WEAPONS AND
FLYING VESSELS
AND HE SENT THEM
OUT TO ASSAULT
THE LAND OF GA.



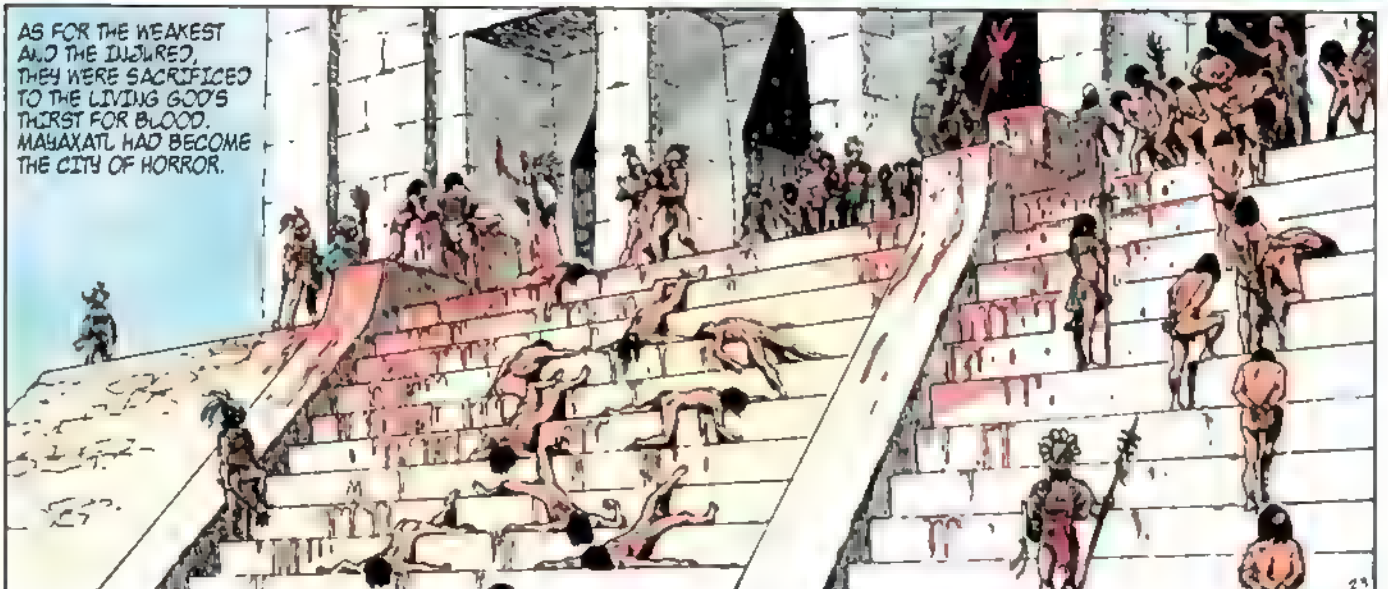
FROM THE NORTH TO THE SOUTH AND FROM
THE EAST TO THE WEST, THERE WAS
NOTHING BUT FIRE AND
MASSACRE, TERROR AND
WAILING.

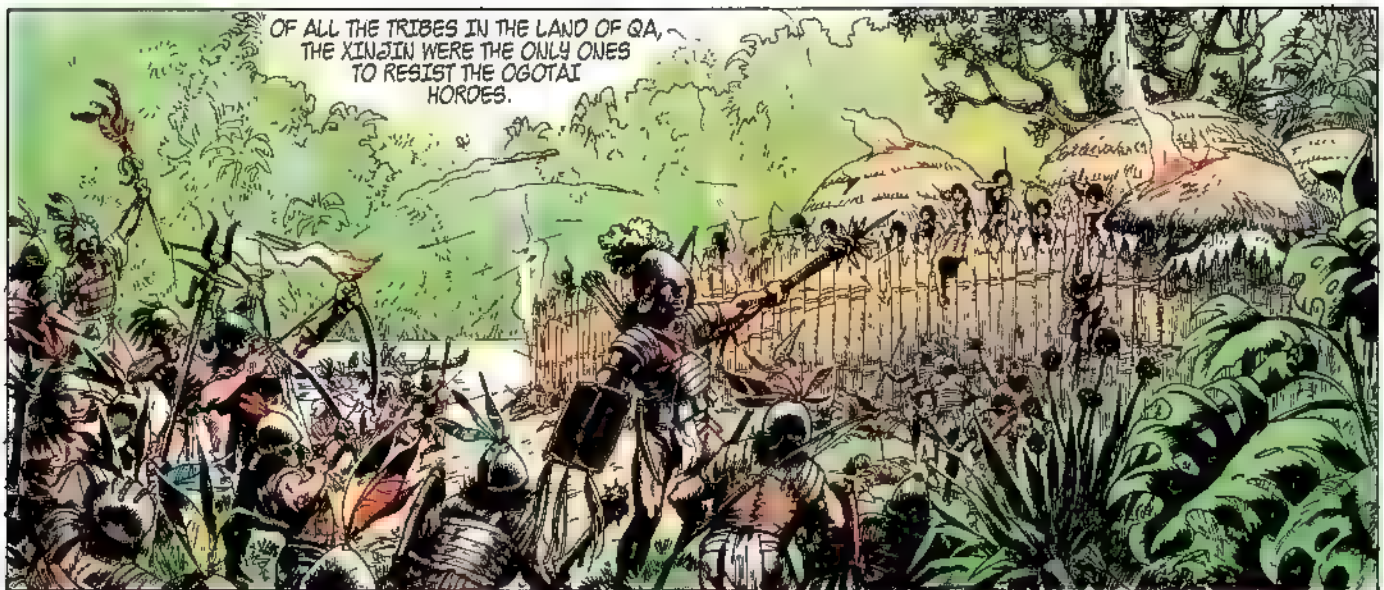


THOSE WHO SUBMITTED
WERE ENLISTED IN OGOTAI'S
ARMY. THE OTHERS WERE
TAKEN AS SLAVES.



AS FOR THE WEAKEST
AND THE INJURED,
THEY WERE SACRIFICED
TO THE LIVING GOD'S
THIRST FOR BLOOD.
MAYAXATL HAD BECOME
THE CITY OF HORROR.



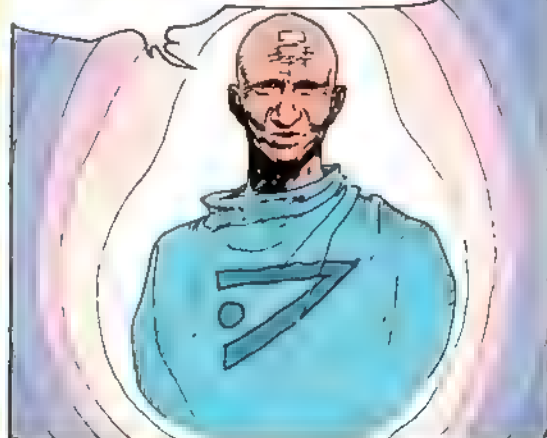


TAWATLOC TAUGHT THE XINJIN TO WORK THE DRY DESERT SOIL. HE ALSO GAVE THEM WEAPONS AND FLYING VESSELS.

AND SO WE WERE ABLE TO REMAIN A FREE PEOPLE.



BUT WE WERE POWERLESS TO STOP THE DESTRUCTIVE FORCE OF OGOTAI FROM SPREADING OVER THE REST OF THE LAND OF GA. NOW, OUR GOD IS DYING. AND WE ARE AFRAID. WITHOUT HIM, THERE IS NOTHING OR NOBODY TO OPPOSE THE DOMINATION OF THE CHAAMS.

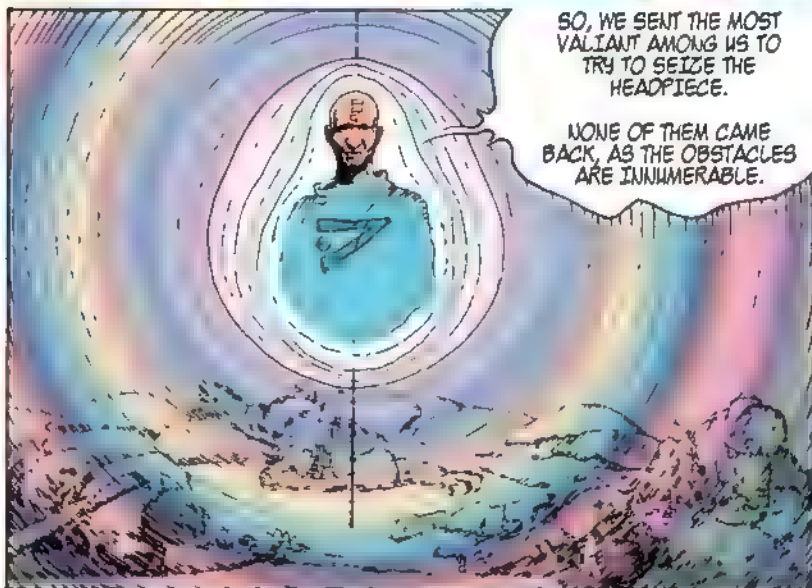


BUT TAWATLOC REVEALED THE SOURCE OF OUR ENEMY'S STRENGTH TO US. HIS HEADPIECE! WITHOUT HIS MAGIC HEADGEAR, OGOTAI WOULD LOSE HIS POWER AND CEASE TO BE A GOD IN THE EYES OF HIS PEOPLE. HIS EMPIRE WOULD CRUMBLE ON ITS OWN.

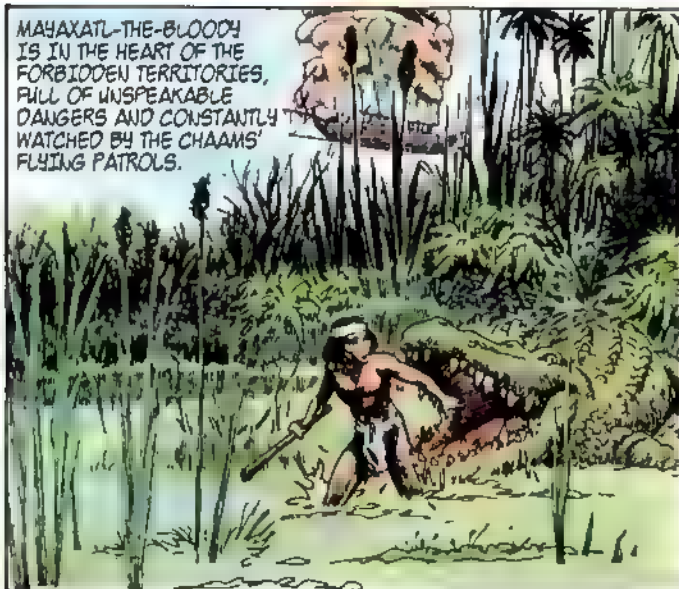


SO, WE SENT THE MOST VALIANT AMONG US TO TRY TO SEIZE THE HEADPIECE.

NONE OF THEM CAME BACK, AS THE OBSTACLES ARE INNUMERABLE.



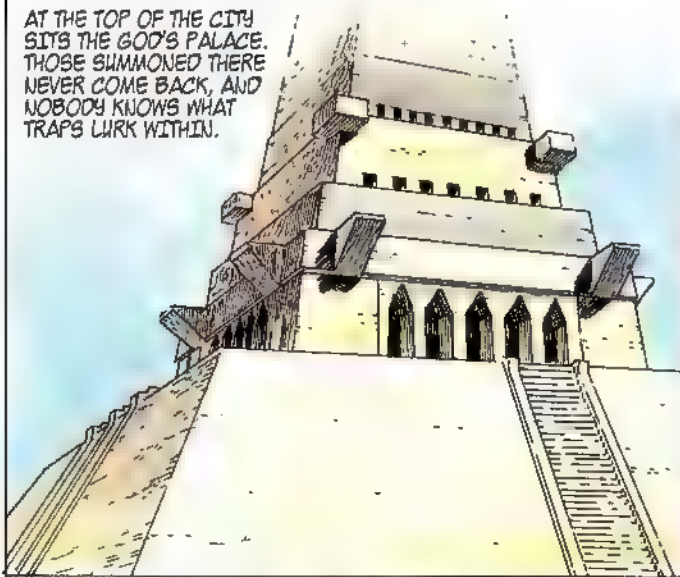
MAYAXATL-THE-BLOODY IS IN THE HEART OF THE FORBIDDEN TERRITORIES, FULL OF UNSPEAKABLE DANGERS AND CONSTANTLY WATCHED BY THE CHAAMS' FLYING PATROLS.



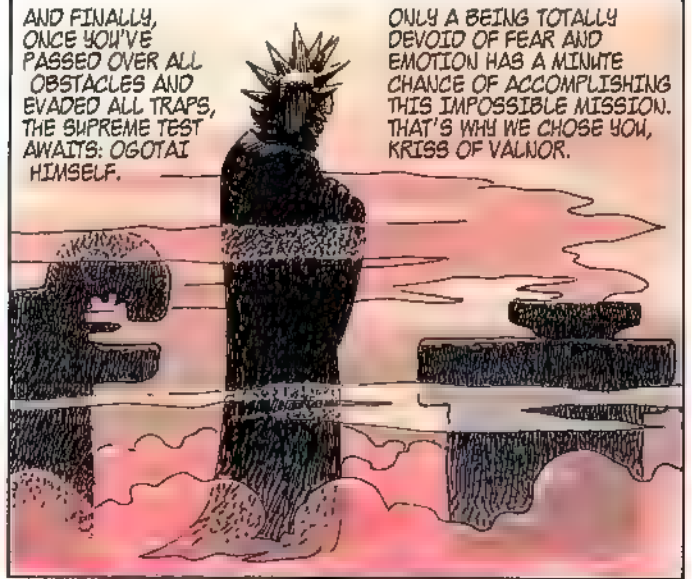
THEREFORE, THE CITY ITSELF MUST BE PENETRATED. DOZENS OF WARRIOR RACES LIVE SHOULDER TO SHOULDER, AND ITS STREETS ARE MORE DANGEROUS THAN A SNAKE PIT.



AT THE TOP OF THE CITY SITS THE GOD'S PALACE. THOSE SUMMONED THERE NEVER COME BACK, AND NOBODY KNOWS WHAT TRAPS LURK WITHIN.



AND FINALLY, ONCE YOU'VE PASSED OVER ALL OBSTACLES AND EVADED ALL TRAPS, THE SUPREME TEST AWAITS: OGOTAI HIMSELF.

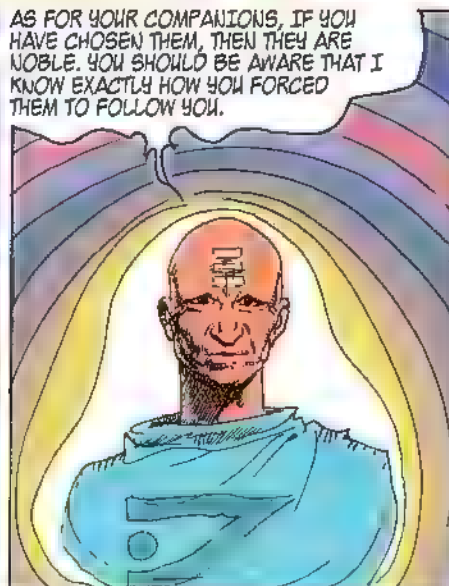


ONLY A BEING TOTALLY DEVOID OF FEAR AND EMOTION HAS A MINUTE CHANCE OF ACCOMPLISHING THIS IMPOSSIBLE MISSION. THAT'S WHY WE CHOSE YOU, KRIS OF VALNOR.

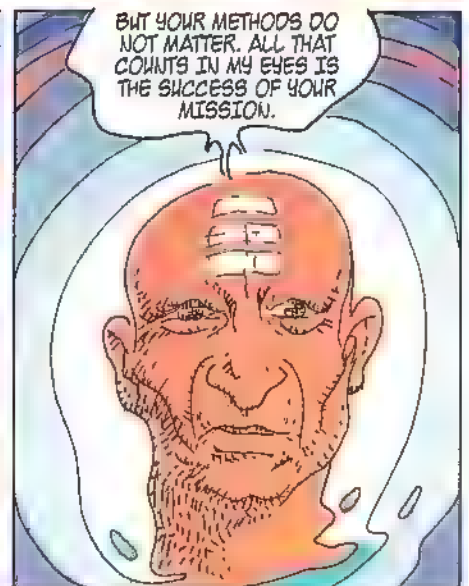
IF YOU FAIL, YOU WILL FACE CERTAIN DEATH. BUT IF YOU SUCCEED, WE WILL GIVE YOU AS MUCH GOLD AS YOU CAN CARRY IN A CHARIOT HITCHED TO TWO OXEN.



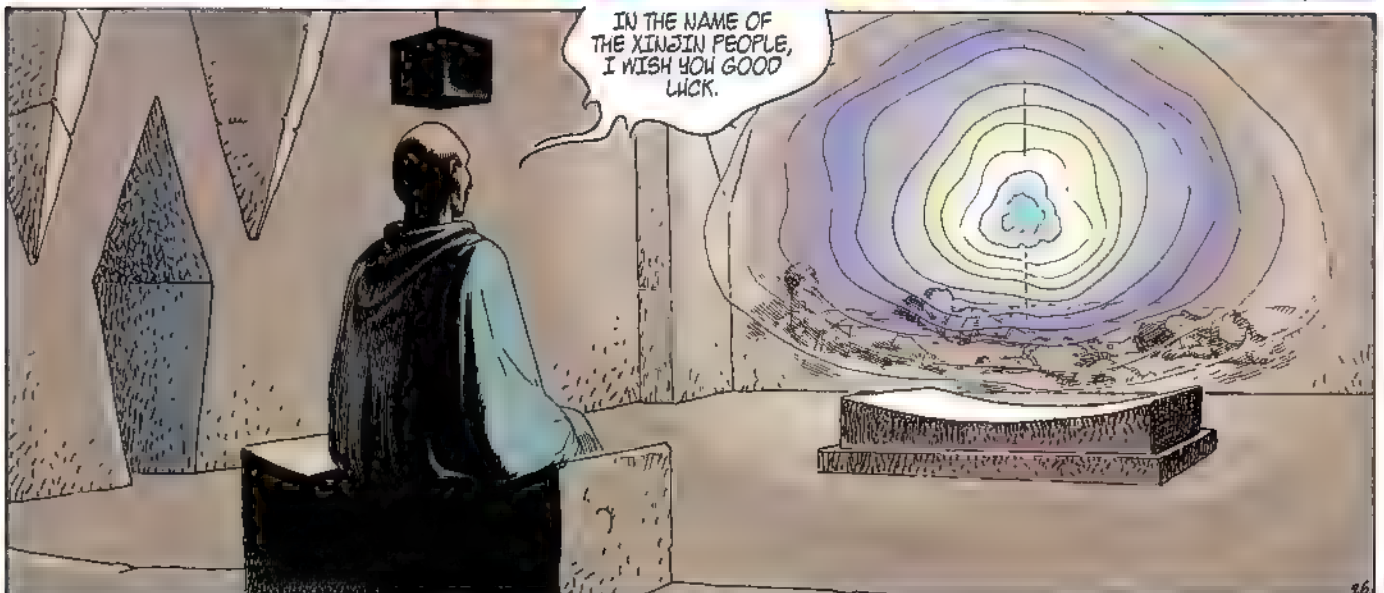
AS FOR YOUR COMPANIONS, IF YOU HAVE CHOSEN THEM, THEN THEY ARE NOBLE. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT I KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FORCED THEM TO FOLLOW YOU.

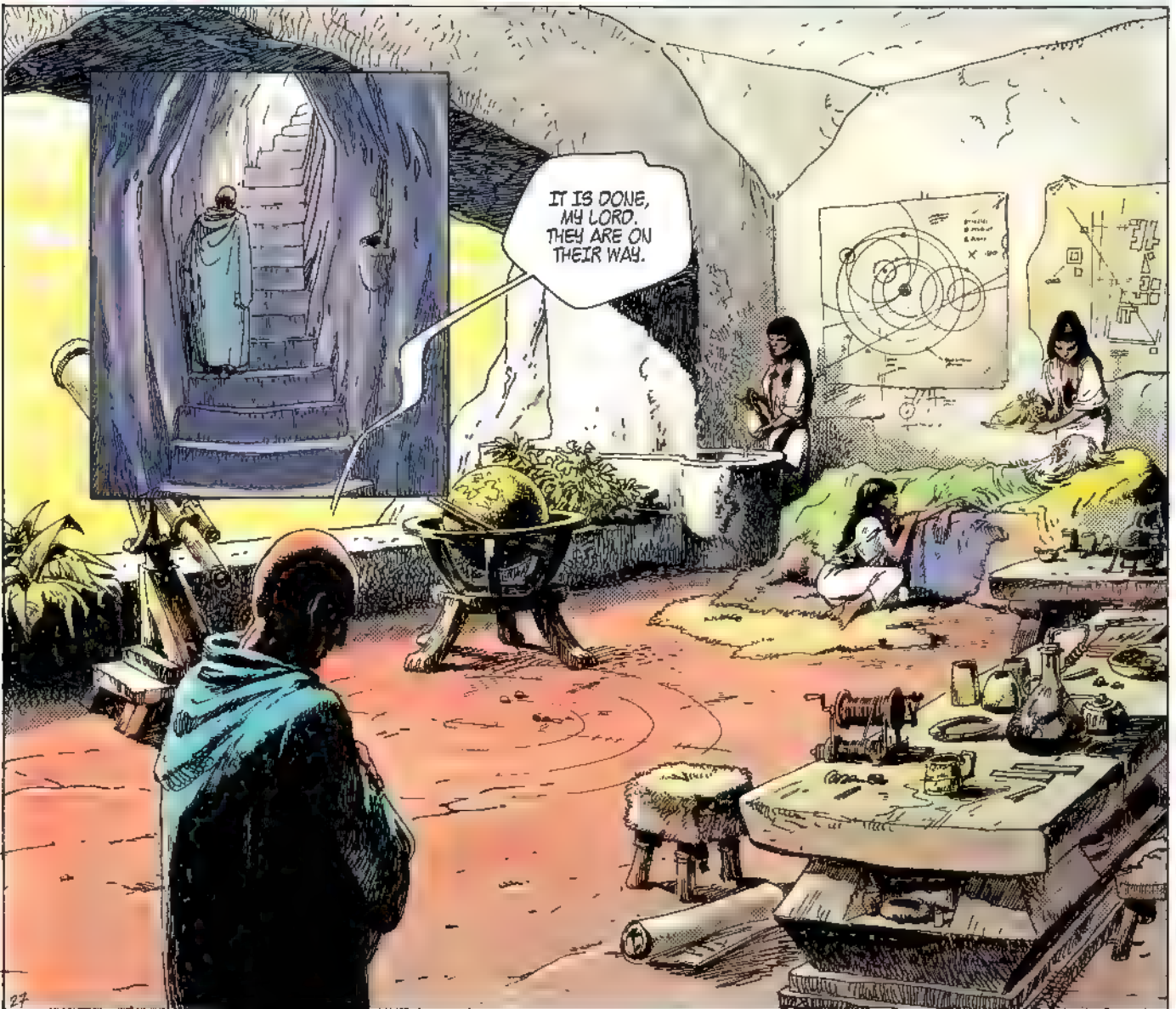
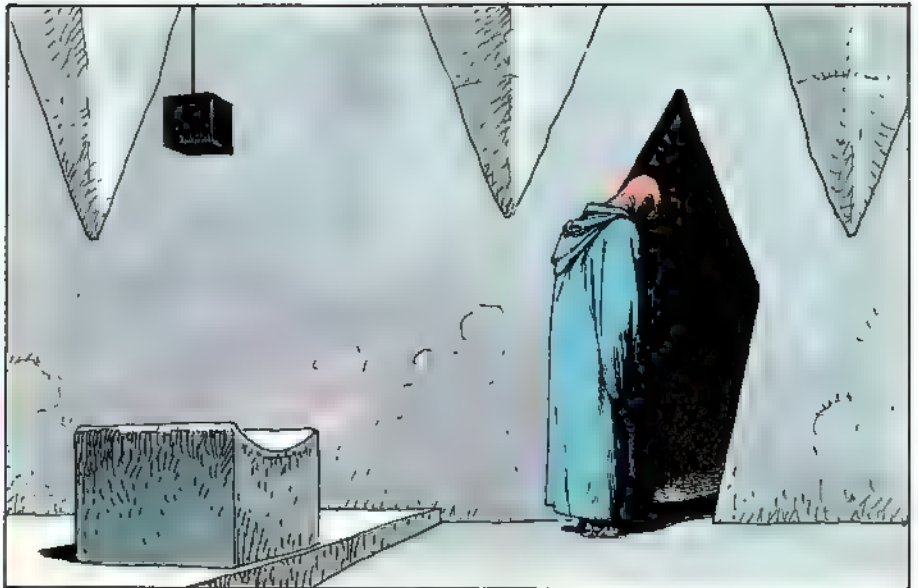
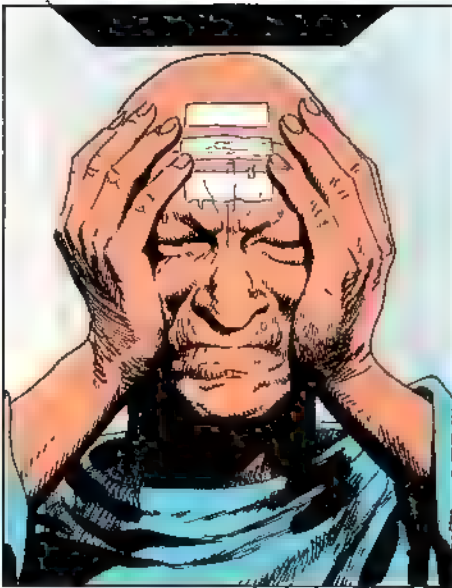


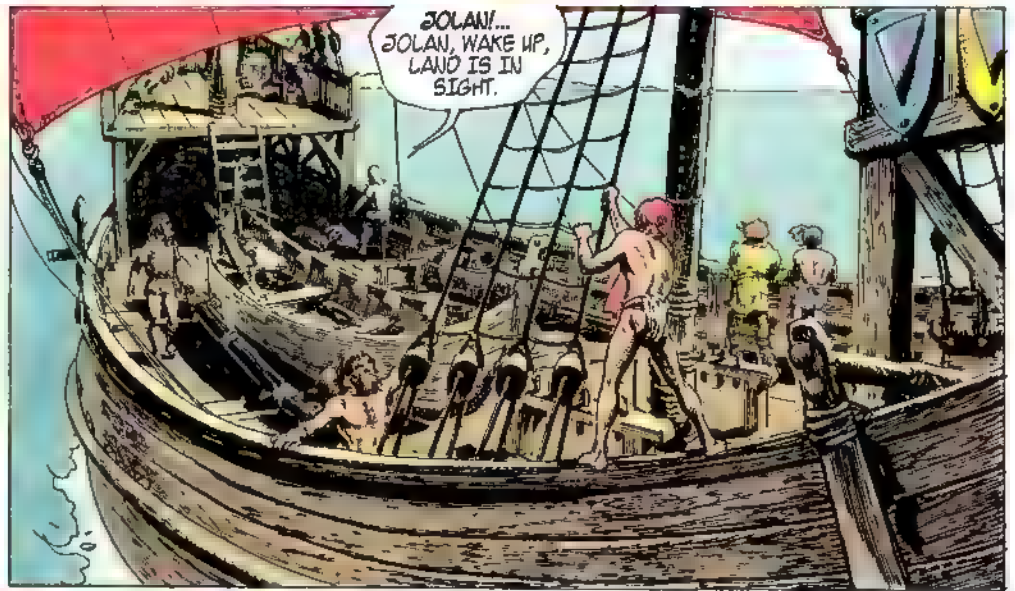
BUT YOUR METHODS DO NOT MATTER. ALL THAT COUNTS IN MY EYES IS THE SUCCESS OF YOUR MISSION.

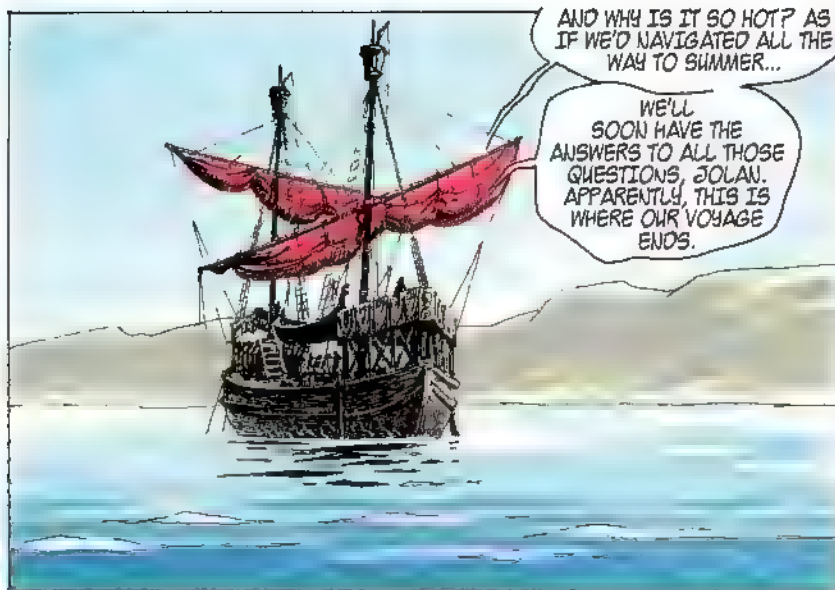


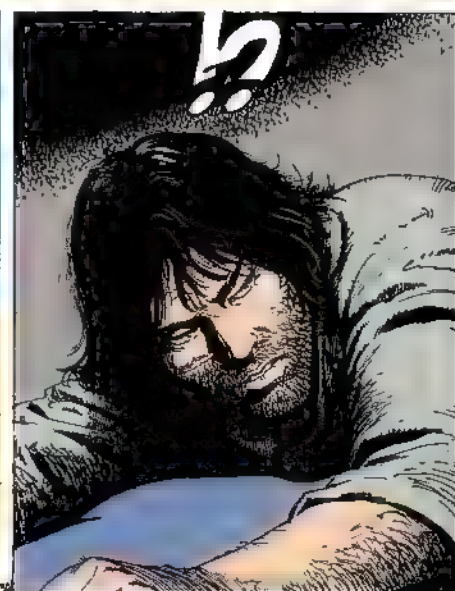
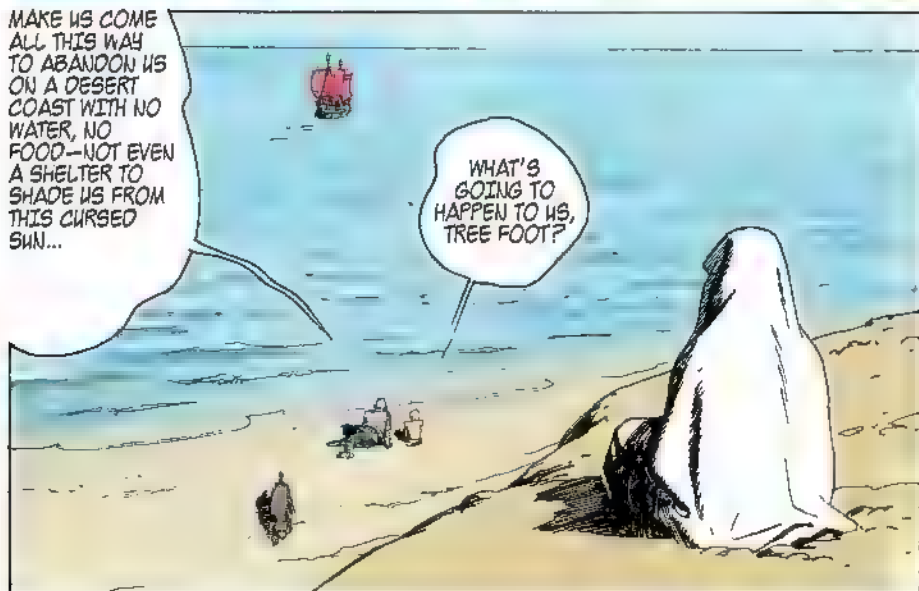
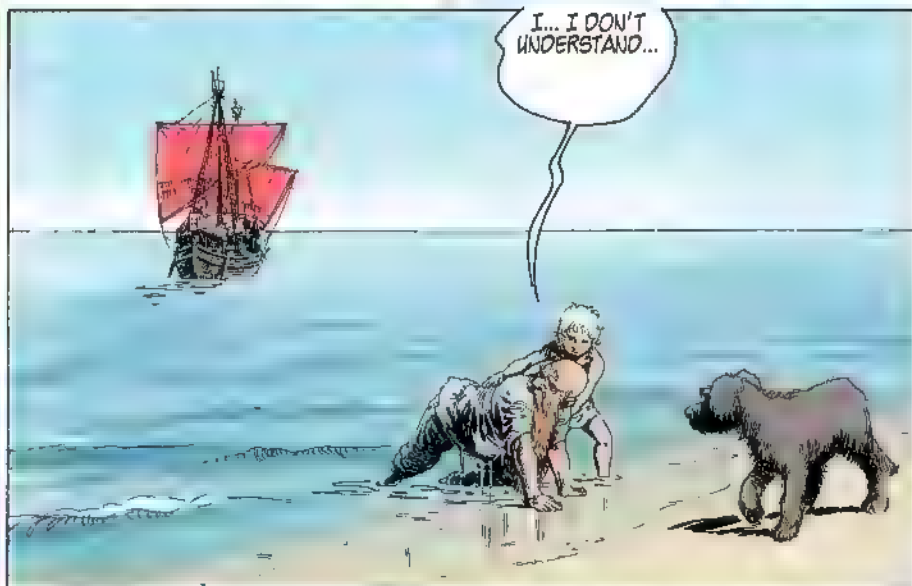
IN THE NAME OF THE XINGIN PEOPLE, I WISH YOU GOOD LUCK.











AARICIA,
DID I
FALL ASLEEP?

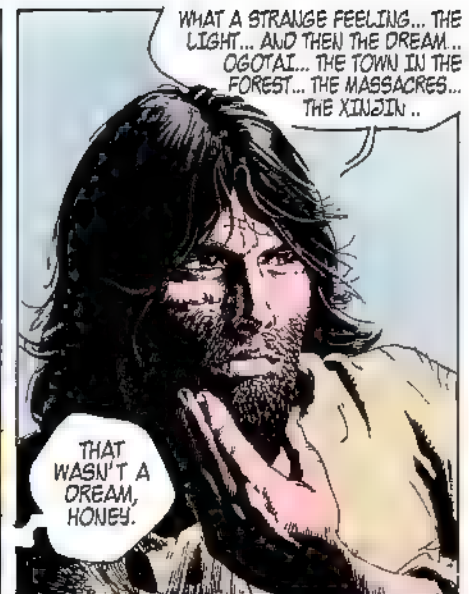
WE ALL DID, MY
LOVE. FOR SEVERAL
DAYS, IF THE LENGTH
OF YOUR BEARD IS
ANYTHING TO
GO BY.

AND, YOU KNOW,
WE'RE NOT HUNGRY
AT ALL. IT'S AS IF WE
WERE FED DURING
OUR SLUMBER.

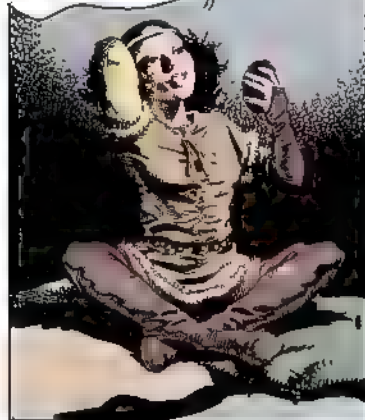


WHAT A STRANGE FEELING... THE
LIGHT... AND THEN THE DREAM...
OGOTAI... THE TOWN IN THE
FOREST... THE MASSACRES...
THE XINJIN...

THAT
WASN'T A
DREAM,
HONEY.



IT WAS THE EXPLANATION OF
OUR MISSION. THE MISSION
THAT WILL MAKE ME RICHER
THAN I EVER DARED TO IMAGINE.
A WHOLE CHARIOT
OF GOLD, CAN YOU
BELIEVE IT?



CURSE YOUR GREED
THAT LED US INTO THIS
MADNESS, KRISS OF
VALNOR!...

COME ON, NOW...
THERE MUST BE
A GOOD DEAL OF
EXAGGERATION AND
LEGEND IN THE STORY...



AND FROM WHAT I HEAR, YOU'VE SUCCEEDED IN FEATS THAT WERE JUST AS DANGEROUS, ISN'T THAT TRUE? UNLESS YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR LITTLE DARLING?



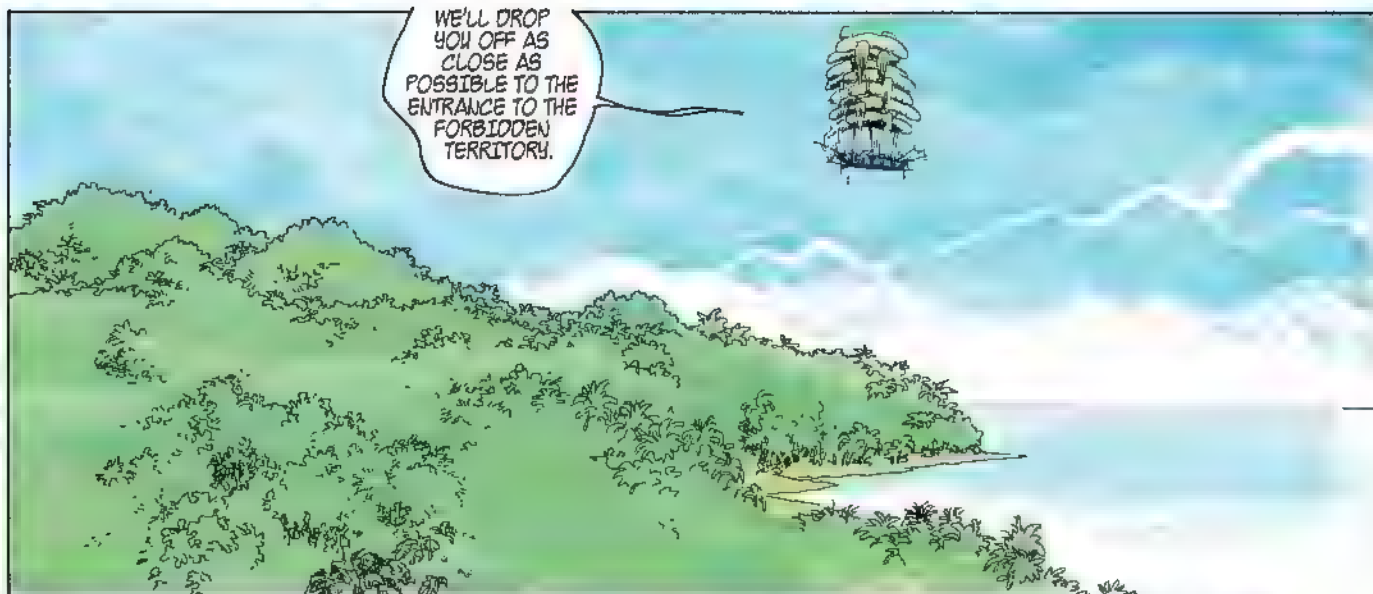
THIS TIME I'LL
STRANGLE YOU WITH
MY OWN HANDS...

STOP!



SAVE YOUR
FIGHTING ENERGY
FOR THE TESTS
THAT AWAIT YOU,
STRANGERS. WE'VE
SPOTTED THE
LAND OF GA.





THE ENTRANCE IS MARKED BY A GIANT STATUE THAT OGOITAI HAD ERECTED, CALLED THE GODDESS WITH NO NAME. MISFORTUNE, SAYS THE LEGEND, TO HIM WHO VENTURES BEYOND HER GAZE.



A GUIDE WILL BE WAITING TO TAKE YOU TO MAYAXATL. A SURVIVOR OF THE SHEERSHECS TRIBE WHO LIVED IN THIS FOREST AND WERE DECIMATED BY THE CHAAMS. HE OFFERED HIMSELF TO US.

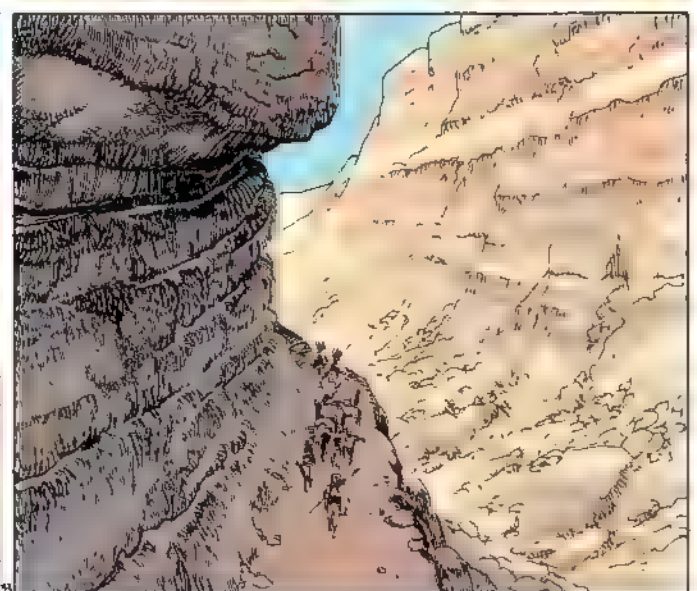
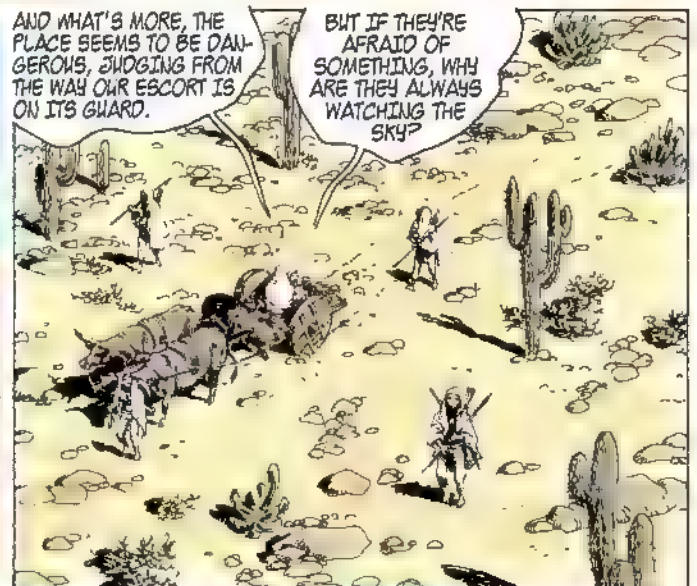
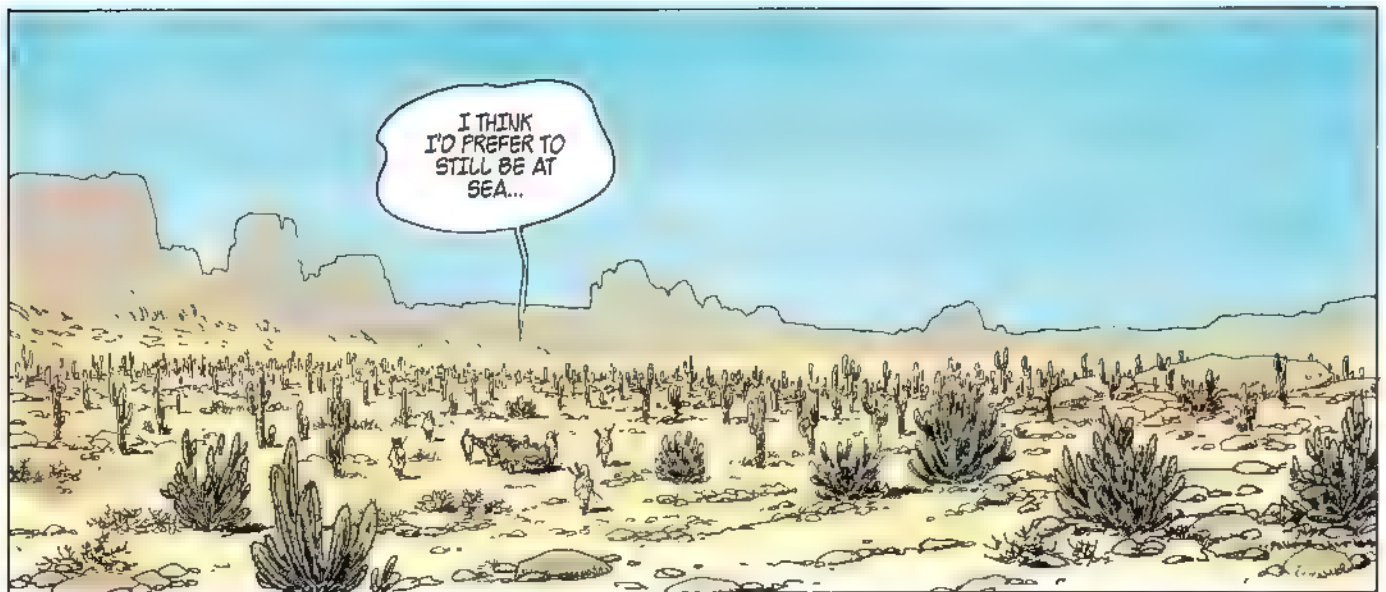


BUT WE HAVE OTHER ALLIES IN MAYAXATL ITSELF... IF YOU WEAR THIS RING ON THE LITTLE FINGER OF YOUR RIGHT HAND, THEY'LL KNOW THAT YOU NEED THEM AND WILL MAKE THEMSELVES KNOWN.

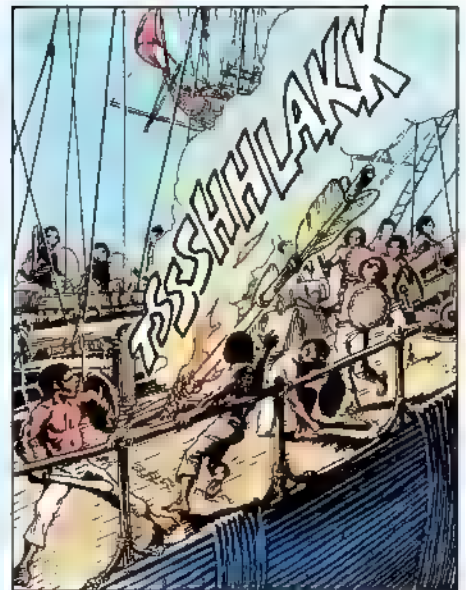


BUT HOW WILL WE GET IN CONTACT WITH YOUR HIGH REGENT IF WE EVER...?



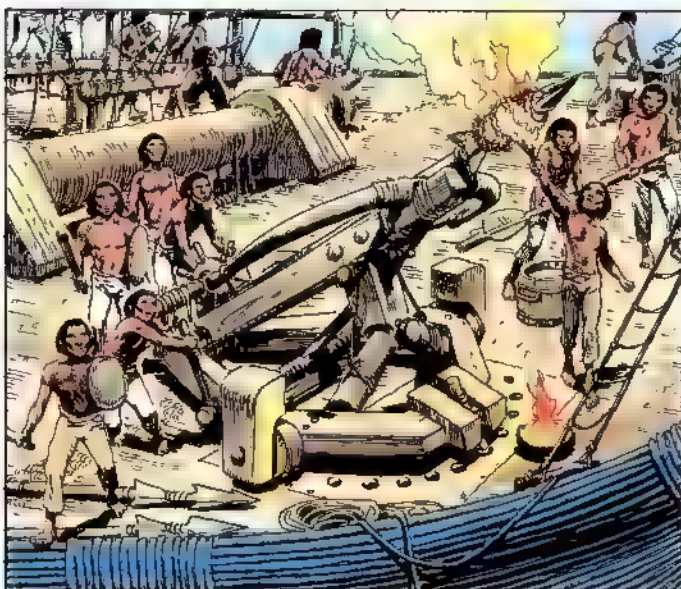
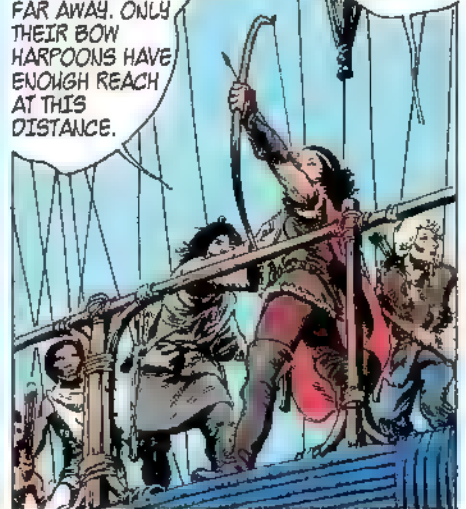




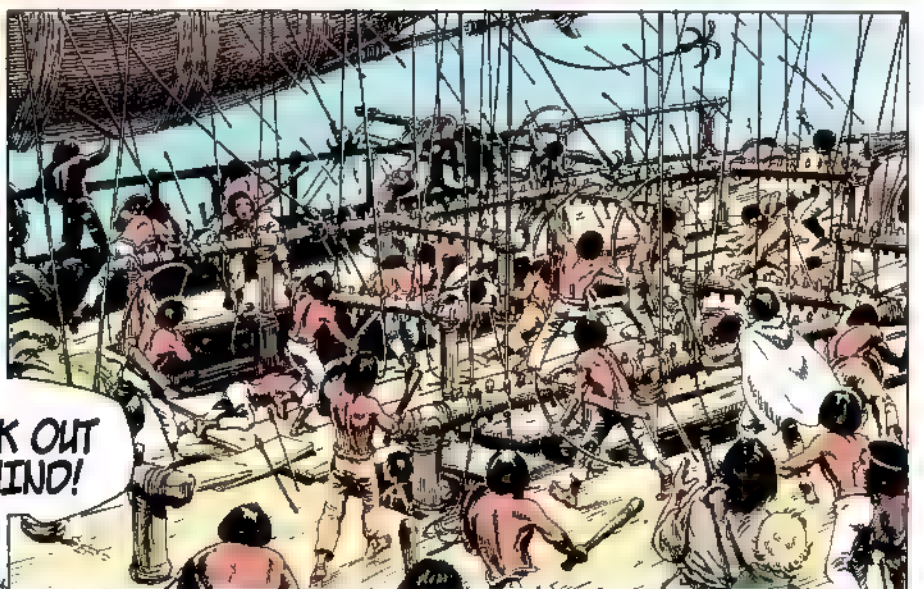
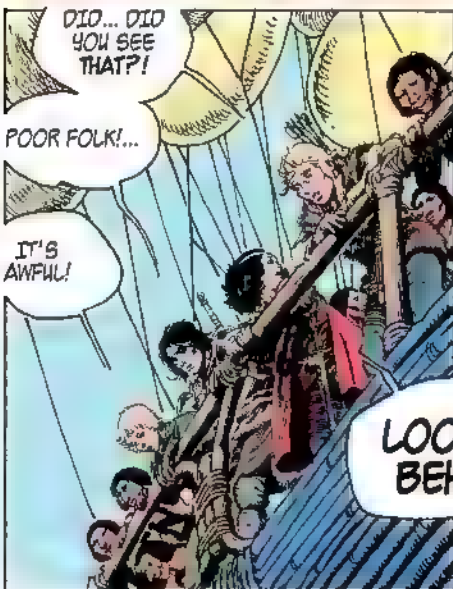


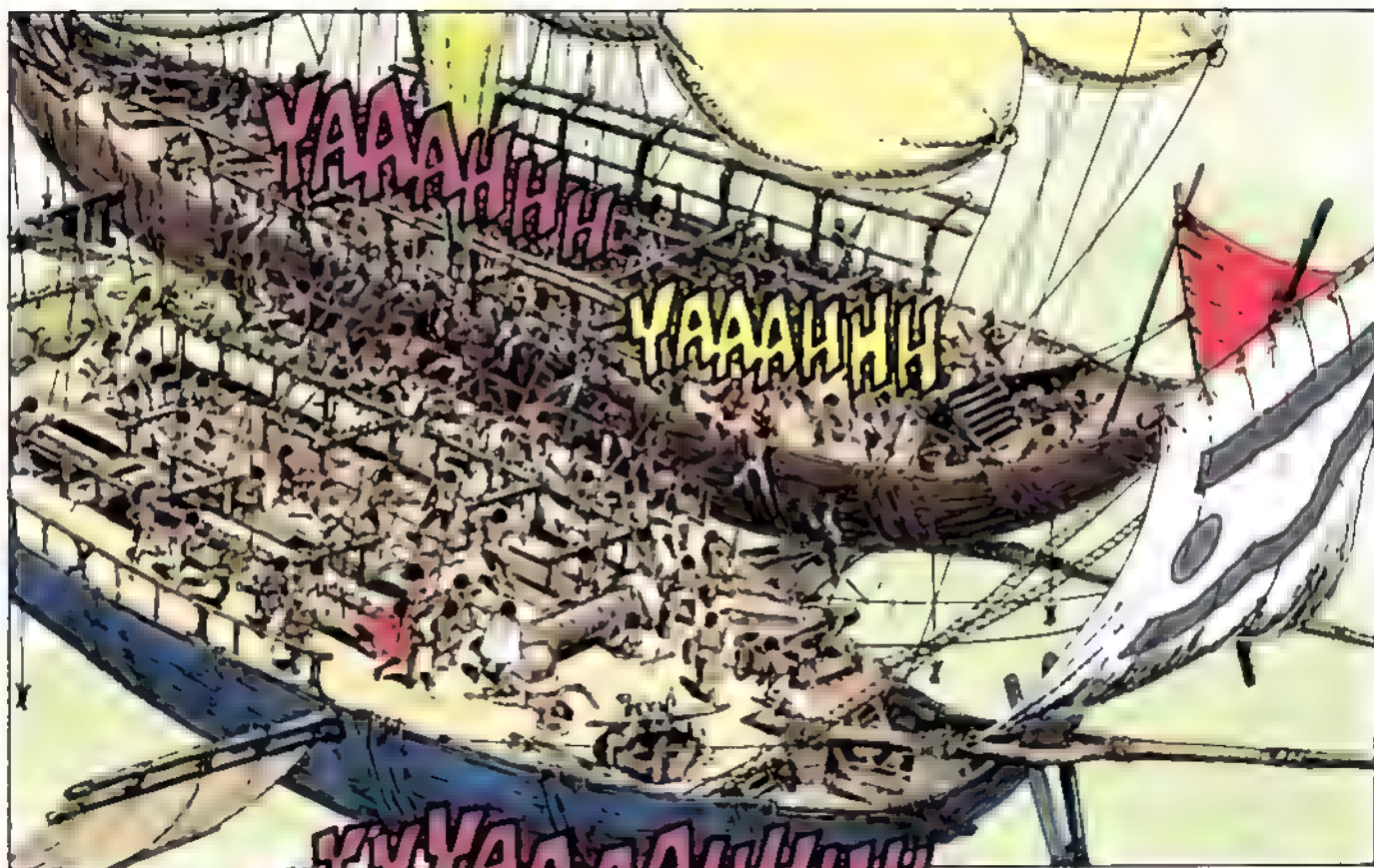
RESTRAIN YOUR KILLER INSTINCT: THEY ARE TOO FAR AWAY. ONLY THEIR BOW HARPOONS HAVE ENOUGH REACH AT THIS DISTANCE.

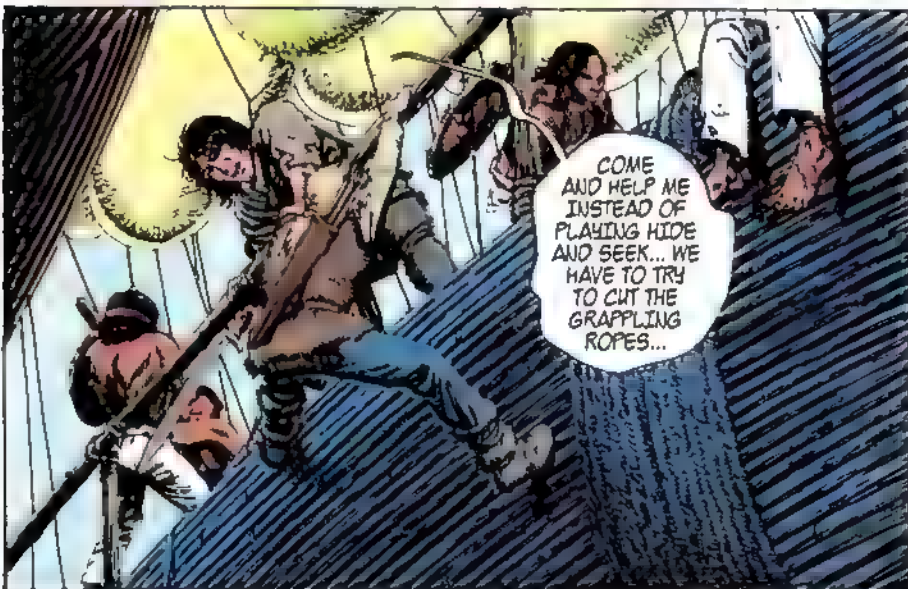
LOOK! WE'RE ABOUT TO SHOOT.



WELL AIMED. IT'S GOING TO HIT THAT SORT OF SAUSAGE THAT...





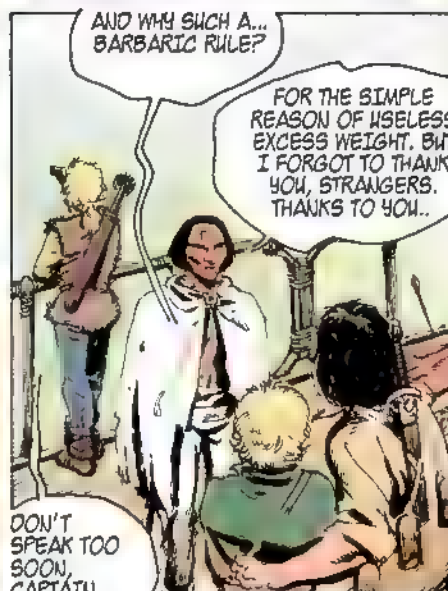
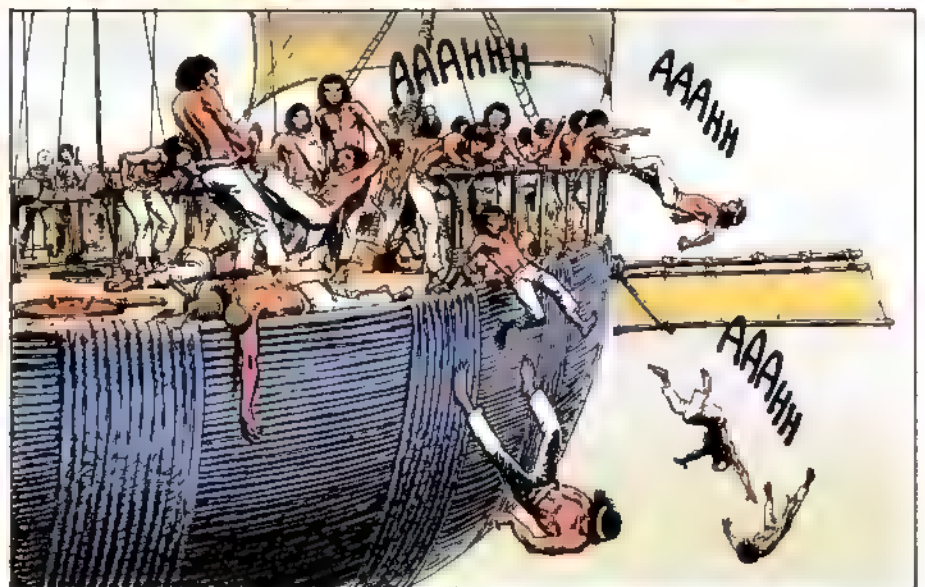
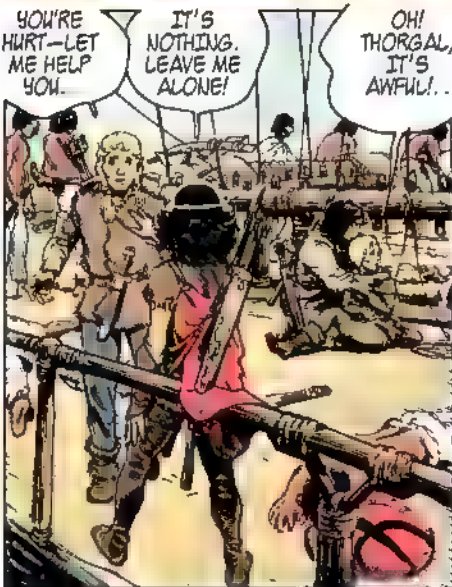
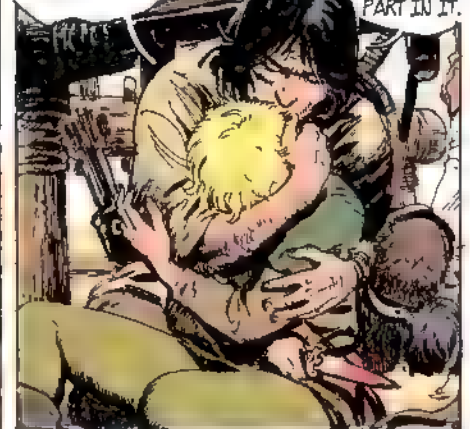






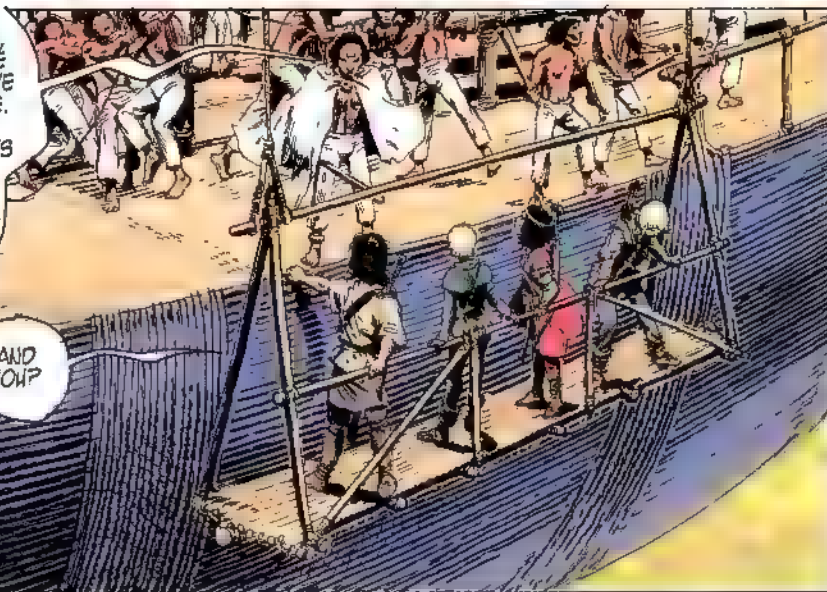
OH, THORGAL, I WAS SO SCARED... SO ANGRY, TOO... NOW I'M SO DISGUSTED WITH MYSELF...

YOU SHOULDN'T BE, MY LOVE. YOU KILLED TO DEFEND YOURSELF, LIKE WE ALL DID. AND YOU DID IT WITH COURAGE. IT'S WAR THAT'S SHAMEFUL, NOT THE TAKING PART IN IT.

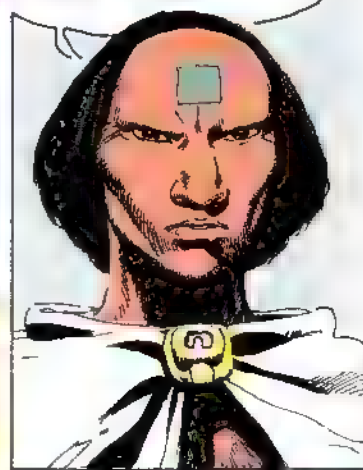


I'M GOING TO LEAVE YOU HERE, HOPING THAT THE ENEMY WILL GIVE US ENOUGH TIME. THE GODDESS WITH NO NAME IS A HALF DAY'S WALK TO THE WEST. FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK.

AND YOU?

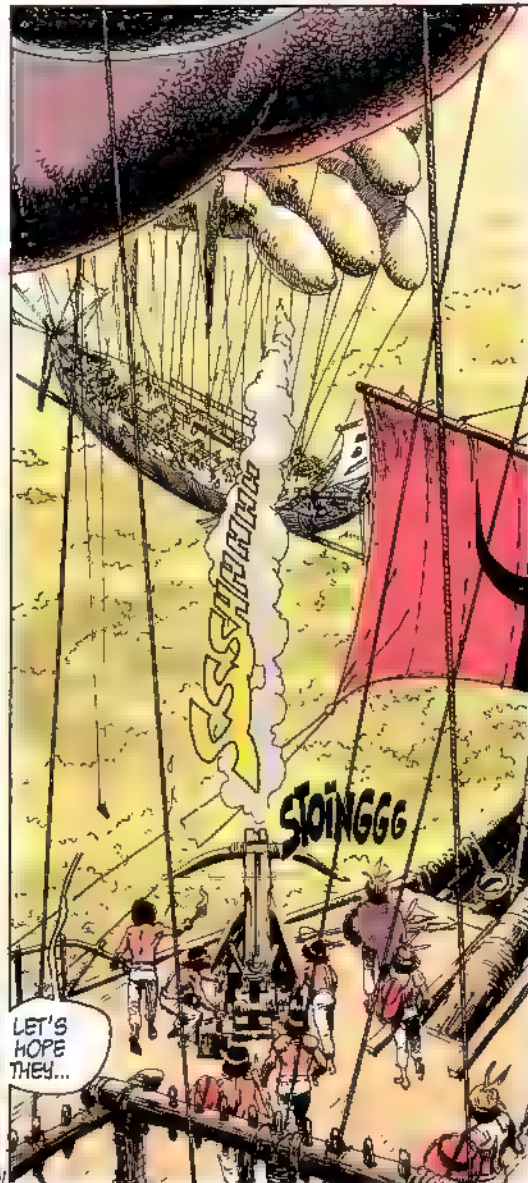


THAT'S AN ODD CONCERN, STRANGER. AS SOON AS OUR MISSION IS COMPLETE, OUR FATE WILL NO LONGER BE OF ANY IMPORTANCE. LOWER THEM!

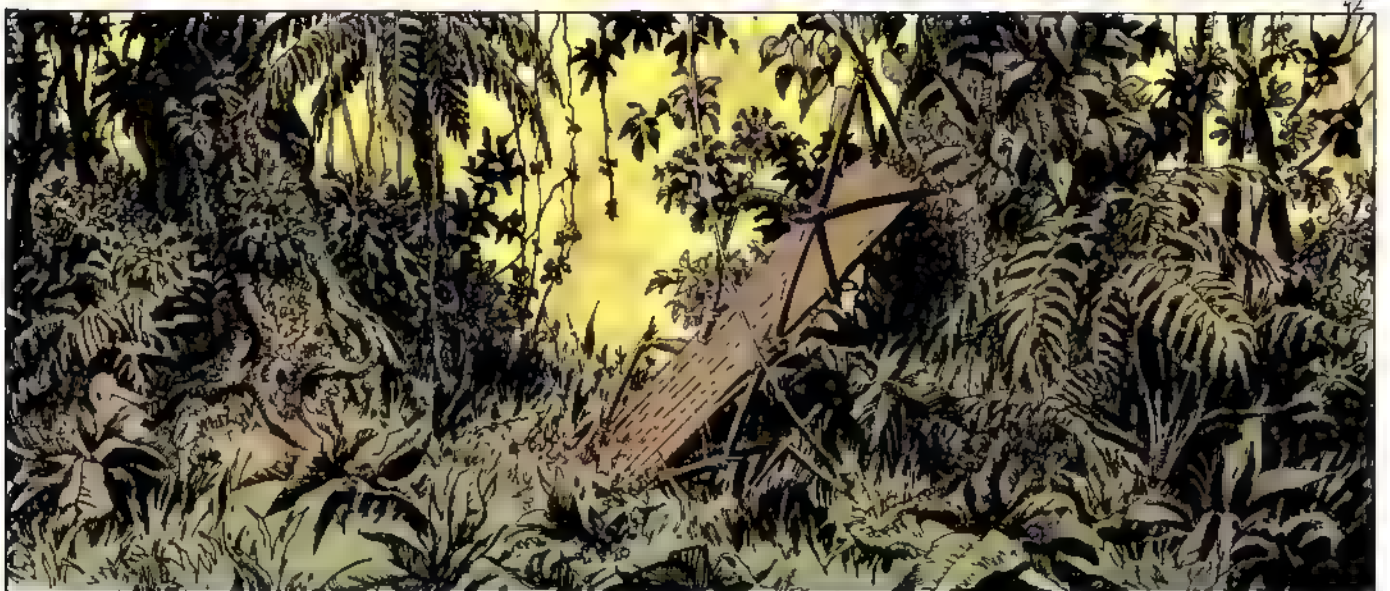
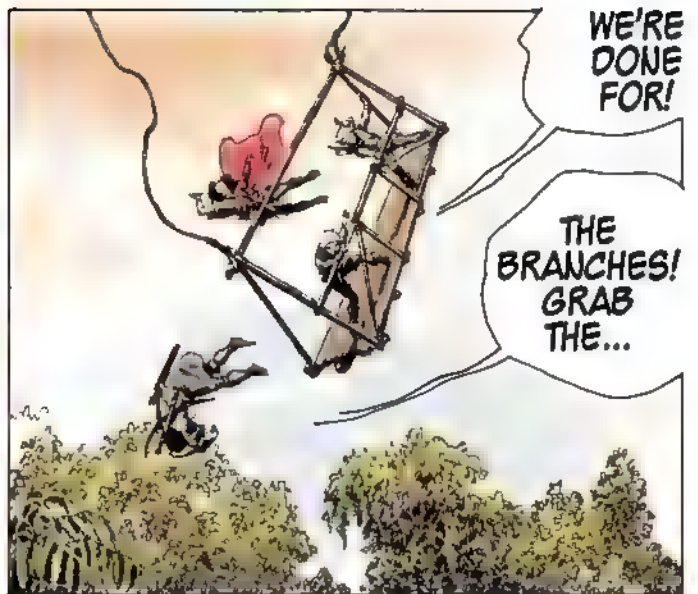
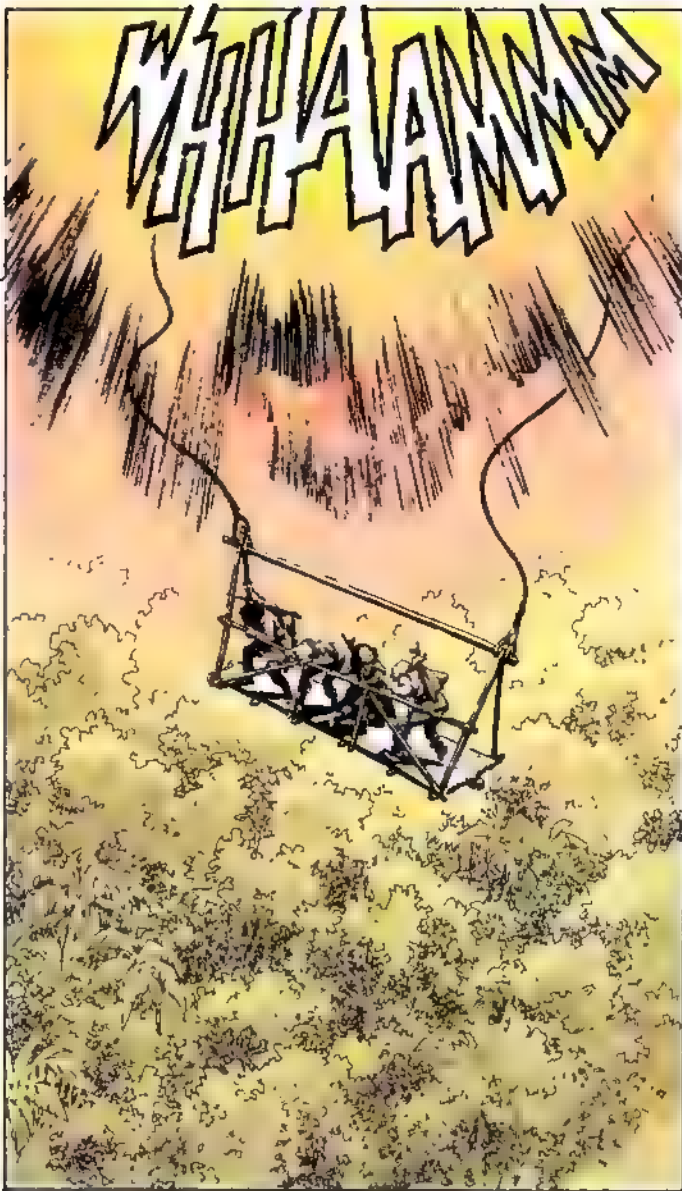


THAT SIGN, ON THE CHAAMS' SAILS... I'VE SEEN IT SOMEWHERE BEFORE... BUT WHERE?

THORGAL, THEY'RE ATTACKING!

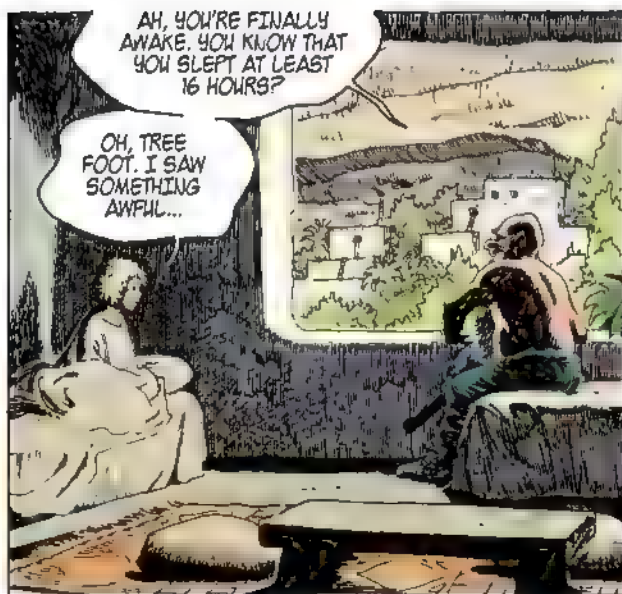


LET'S HOPE THEY...





AARICIA!
THORGAL!



AH, YOU'RE FINALLY
AWAKE. YOU KNOW THAT
YOU SLEPT AT LEAST
16 HOURS?

OH, TREE
FOOT. I SAW
SOMETHING
AWFUL...



THORGAL, AARICIA, TJALL ..
THEY WERE FALLING THROUGH
SPACE... AND THEY HAD ANOTHER
WOMAN WITH THEM, A WOMAN
I DON'T KNOW...

YOU HAD
A BAD
DREAM,
MATEY.

AFTER ALL OUR UPS AND
DOWNS, I'M NOT SURPRISED.
PERHAPS THE ADVENTURE
THAT WE'RE LIVING THROUGH
IS A DREAM TOO...



IT'S
BEAUTIFUL! ...
DID YOU
FIND OUT
WHERE WE
ARE?

IN
THE CITY
OF THE
KINGIN,
MY
FRIENDS.



WELCOME, ARGUN
TREE FOOT, AND YOU,
TOO, JOLAN, SON OF
THORGAL AEGIRSSON.
I HOPE THAT YOUR
FIRST NIGHT WITH
US WAS PLEASANT.

U
U



TAKE SOME FRUIT TO EAT. YOU DON'T
KNOW MOST OF THEM, BUT I CAN ASSURE
YOU THAT THEY ARE EXCELLENT.

TO HELL WITH
YOUR WELCOME AND YOUR
DAMNED FRUIT! WHAT DO YOU
WANT FROM US? WHY DID YOU
HAVE US KIDNAPPED TO
BRING US HERE?

I SEE THAT YOU ARE A DIRECT MAN. ALL THE BETTER. LET'S SAY THAT JOLAN'S PARENTS AND YOUR NEPHEW HAVE BEEN SENT ON A MISSION. AND THAT YOU ARE THE GUARANTEE FOR A GOOD END TO THIS MISSION.

WHAT'S ALL THIS NONSENSE? WHAT MISSION ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

SORRY, BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU ANY MORE. BUT YOU WILL BE TREATED AS DISTINGUISHED GUESTS DURING YOUR WHOLE STAY AND OF COURSE, YOU'LL BE FREE TO MOVE AS YOU PLEASE IN OUR CITY.

FREE? A FUNNY EXPRESSION...

WHAT IF WE TOOK YOU AT YOUR WORD? WHAT IF WE DECIDED NOT TO ENJOY YOUR "HOSPITALITY"?

I DOUBT THAT YOU'D MANAGE, TREE FOOT. THE DESERT SURROUNDING US IS A MORE EFFICIENT GUARDIAN THAN ALL THE CHAINS WE COULD PUT ON YOU.

ESPECIALLY FOR AN INFIRM WITH A CHILD.

YOU LIKE THE FRUIT, JOLAN? WE CALL THAT A BANANA.

ONE LAST THING... DON'T PUT ANY HOPE IN THE HELP YOU MIGHT EXPECT FROM YOUR FRIENDS. THEY ARE FAR FROM HERE, AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT EVEN AS WE SPEAK, THEY HAVE PLENTY OF OTHER WORRIES.

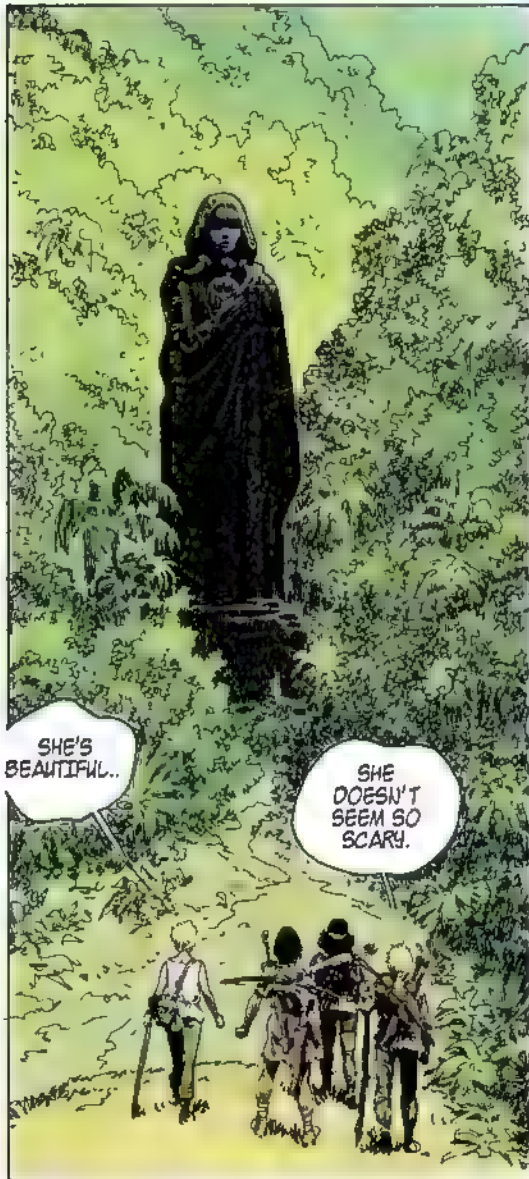


I SUPPOSE YOU
COULD SAY WE WERE
LUCKY.

DEFINITELY, YES
EVEN MORE BECAUSE
THE CHAAMS MUST
THINK WE'RE
DEAD.

WHAT LUCK
INDEED TO HAVE
THE GREAT PLEASURE
OF TRAIPSING
AROUND FOR NEARLY A
DAY IN THIS STIFLING
HEAT. WHERE CAN SHE
BE HIDING, THIS
BLASTED GODDESS
WITH NO NAME?...

QUIT WHINING,
TO ALL THE LAZY.
WE'RE HERE.



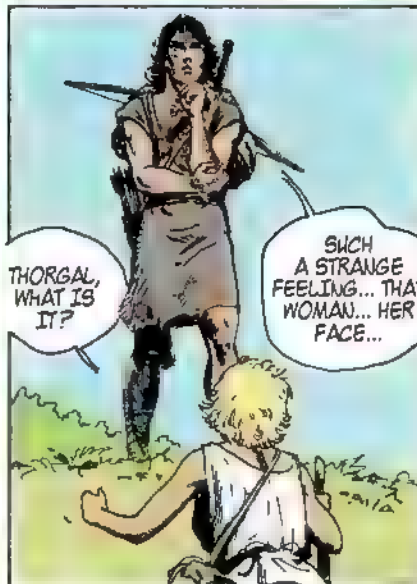
SHE'S
BEAUTIFUL...

SHE
DOESN'T
SEEM SO
SCARY.



LET'S CARRY
ON. WE JUST
HAVE TO FIND
OUR GUIDE
NOW.

??

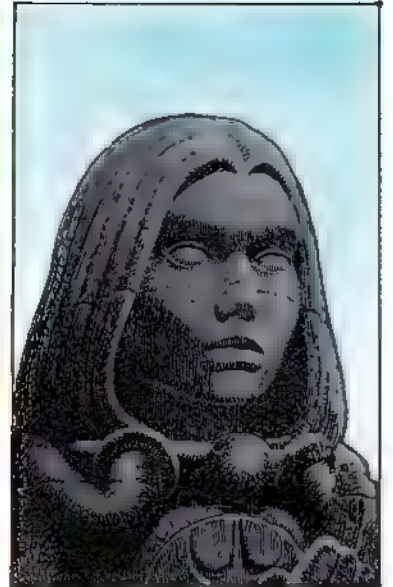


THORGAL,
WHAT IS
IT?

SUCH
A STRANGE
FEELING... THAT
WOMAN... HER
FACE...



THE SAME FEELING
THAT I HAD WITH THE
SIGN ON THE SAILS...
I KNOW THAT FACE... IT'S
AS IF I'VE SEEN IT
IN ANOTHER
LIFE!





THORGAL

The Eyes of Tanatloc

ROSINSKI - VAN HAMME

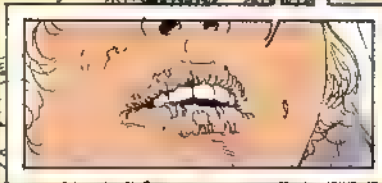
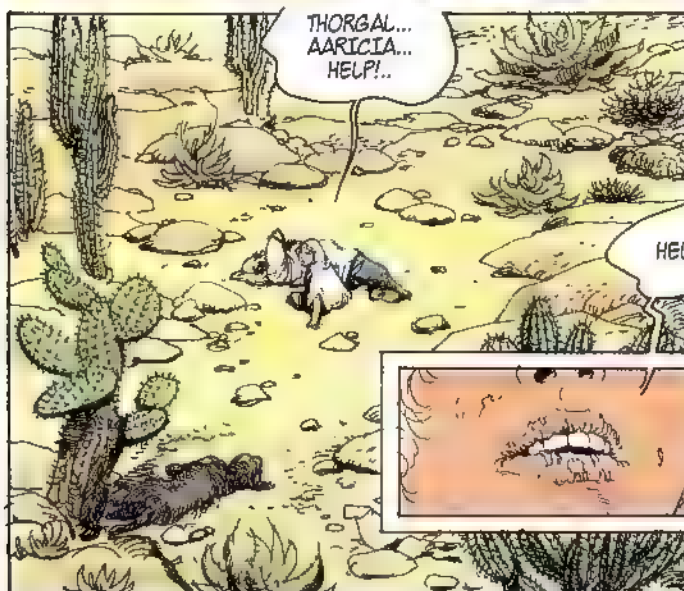
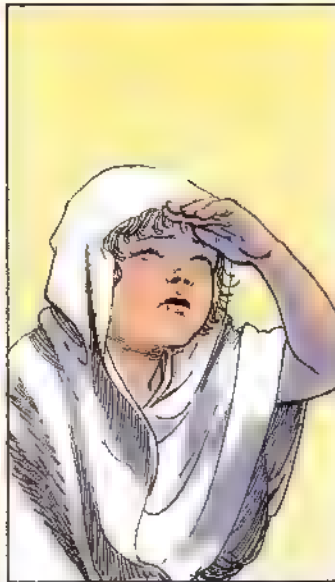


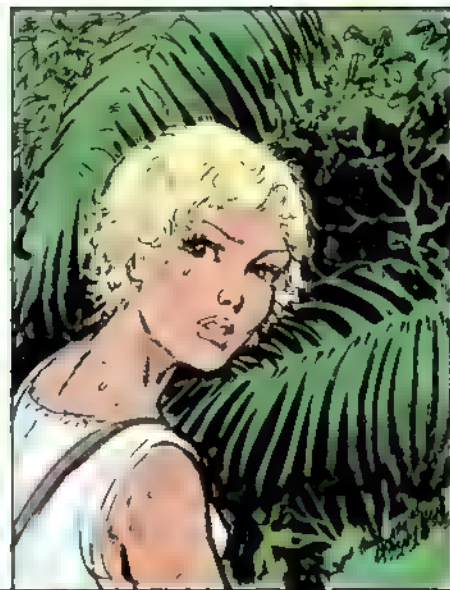
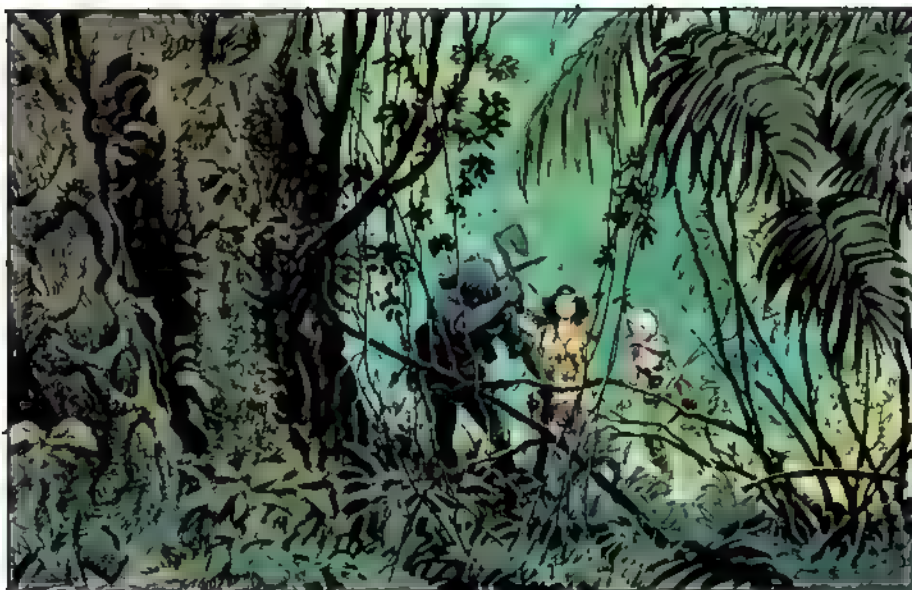
ROSINSKI-VAN HAMME

THORGAL

The Eyes of Tanatloc







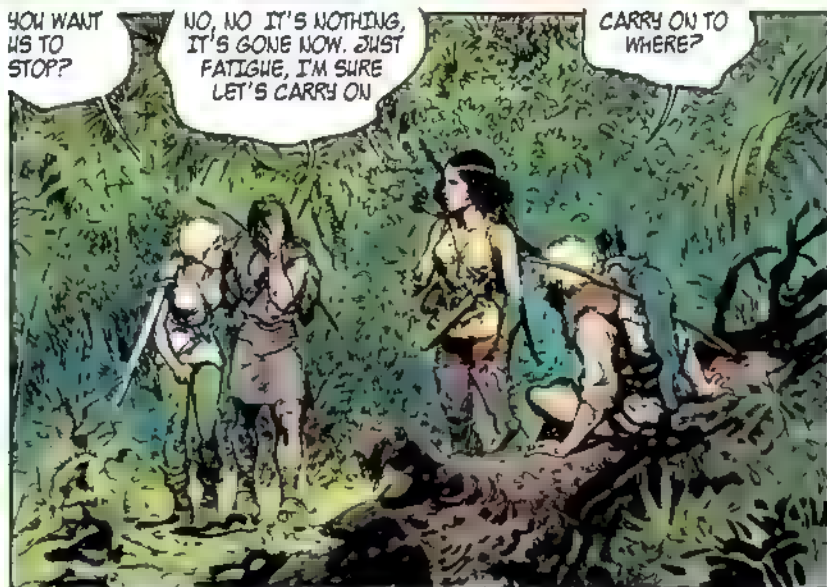
WHAT IS IT?
SOMETHING
WRONG?

AN AWFUL
FEELING .. LIKE
A SCREAM
INSIDE MY
HEAD.

YOU WANT
US TO
STOP?

NO, NO IT'S NOTHING,
IT'S GONE NOW. JUST
FATIGUE, I'M SURE
LET'S CARRY ON

CARRY ON TO
WHERE?



WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF
WE'RE GOING IN THE RIGHT
DIRECTION WE'RE
GOING TO TRAIPSE
AROUND THIS
ROTTEN FOREST
LOOKING FOR
THAT CURSED
GHOST TOWN
UNTIL WE
DIE!



IF WE'RE GOING TO DIE,
HERE WOULD BE AS GOOD
AS ANYWHERE ELSE. I'VE
HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH
OF THIS LITTLE GAME.
I'VE HAD IT UP TO HERE.
ENOUGH! I'M NOT GOING
ANY FURTHER!

THAT
WOULD SURPRISE
ME, TJALL THE WHINY,
SEEING AS YOU'VE
PICKED A BAD
PLACE TO SIT.



WHAT DO
YOU . AAAAAHHH

HOW
AWFUL—
RED ANTS!

AS BIG AS
THUMBS!

HA
HA
HA

DIRTY
LITTLE
CREATURES!



AND THIS MAKES HER LAUGH, THAT CRAZY
WOMAN WHO DRAGGED US INTO THIS HELLHOLE!
YES, CRAZY! YOU ARE INSANE, KRISS OF
VALVORI! COMPLETELY DEMENTED!

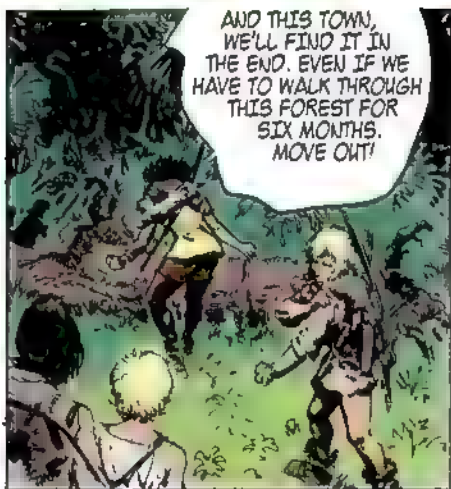


YOU'RE
COMPLETELY
RIGHT, TO ALL
THE ANGRY...

WHOEVER KILLED THE MAN WHO WAS WAITING
FOR US MUST'VE THOUGHT THAT WE WOULDN'T BE
MAD ENOUGH ALREADY TO RISK CROSSING THE
FORBIDDEN TERRITORIES WITHOUT A GUIDE.
SO THAT'S OUR BEST CHANCE OF REACHING
MAYAXATL WITHOUT BEING DISTURBED BY
OGOTAI'S CHAAMS.



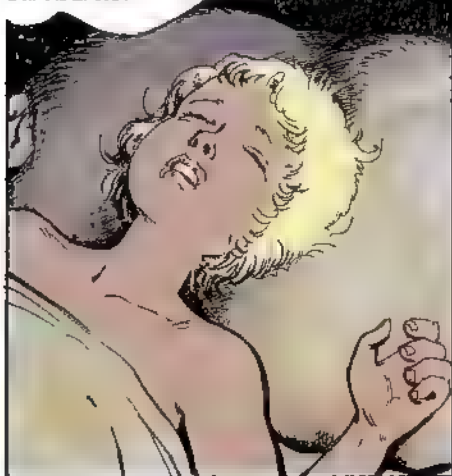
AND THIS TOWN,
WE'LL FIND IT IN
THE END. EVEN IF WE
HAVE TO WALK THROUGH
THIS FOREST FOR
SIX MONTHS.
MOVE OUT!



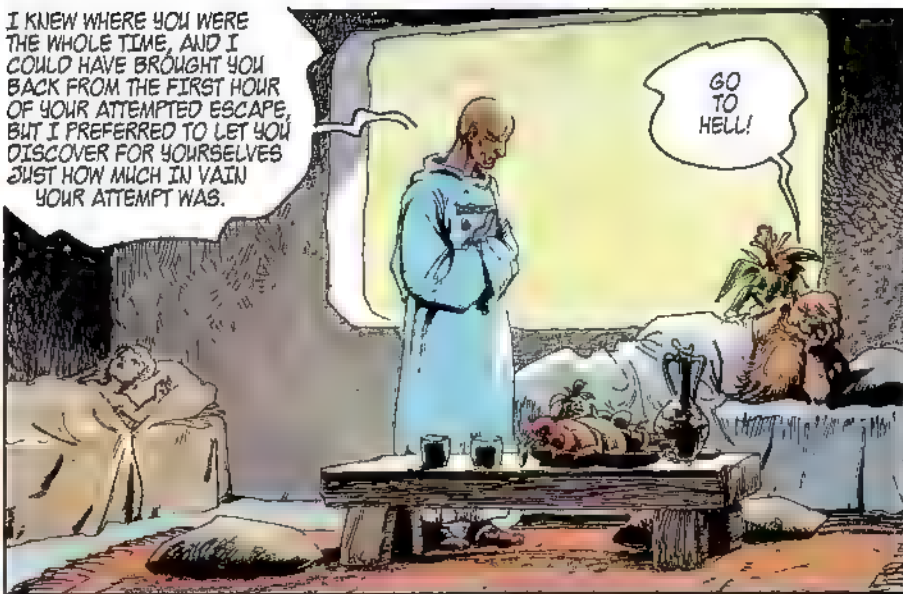
WHAT WERE
YOU EXPECTING,
ARGUN TREE
FOOT?



I EVEN WARNED YOU: FOR HE WHO KNOWS IT NOT, THE DESERT IS THE MOST EFFICIENT OF GUARDIANS.



I KNEW WHERE YOU WERE THE WHOLE TIME, AND I COULD HAVE BROUGHT YOU BACK FROM THE FIRST HOUR OF YOUR ATTEMPTED ESCAPE, BUT I PREFERRED TO LET YOU DISCOVER FOR YOURSELVES JUST HOW MUCH IN VAIN YOUR ATTEMPT WAS.



I'LL DO AS I PLEASE. I AM A FREE MAN!

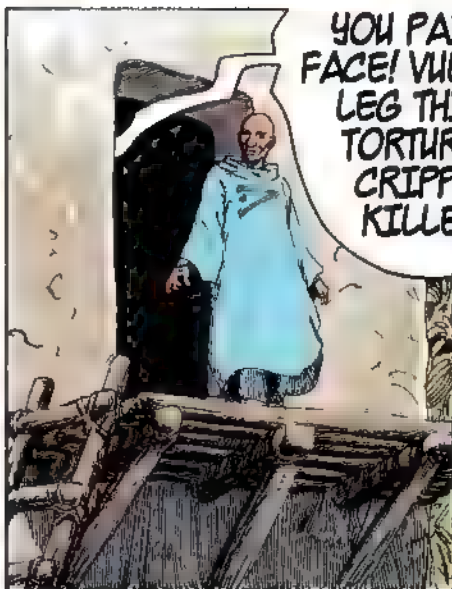
A FREE MAN AND A STUBBORN ONE, I'VE NOTICED...

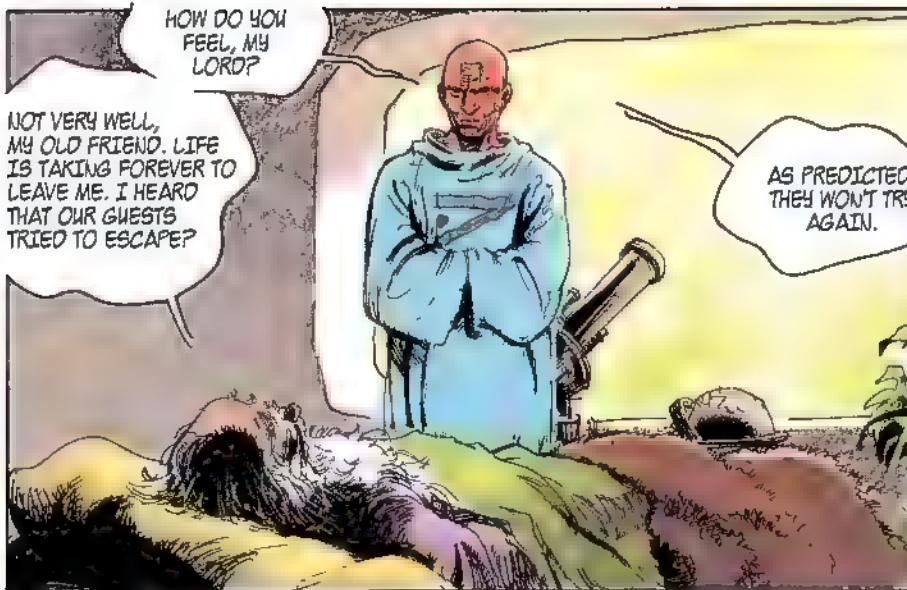
SO I TOOK A SMALL PRECAUTION TO STOP YOU FROM MAKING YOUR MISTAKES AGAIN.



YOU PAINT-FACE! VULTURE! LEG THIEF! TORTURER! CRIPPLE KILLER!

LEAVE US!



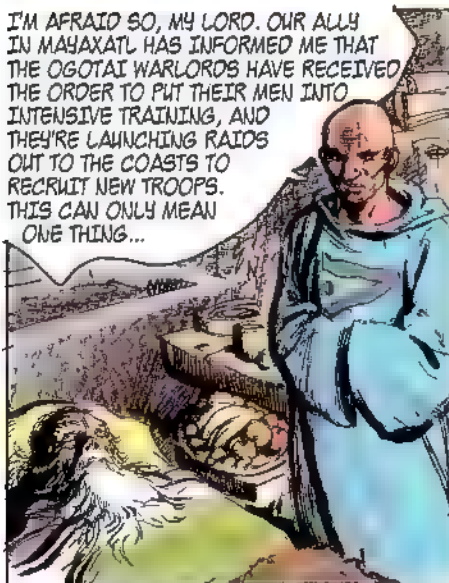


HOW DO YOU
FEEL, MY
LORD?

NOT VERY WELL,
MY OLD FRIEND. LIFE
IS TAKING FOREVER TO
LEAVE ME. I HEARD
THAT OUR GUESTS
TRIED TO ESCAPE?

AS PREDICTED.
THEY WON'T TRY
AGAIN.

GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT. YOU KNOW HOW I
DISLIKE THE METHODS OF THAT MERCENARY
YOU RECRUITED. BUT TELL ME, VARIAT, WHY
DID YOU SEND THE WOMEN OUT? DO YOU
HAVE BAD NEWS?

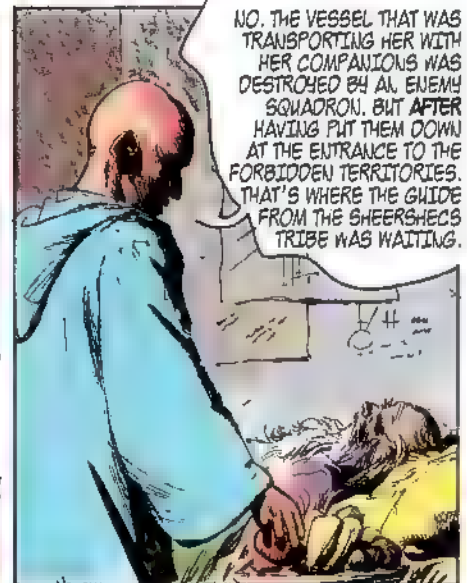


I'M AFRAID SO, MY LORD. OUR ALLY
IN MAYAXATL HAS INFORMED ME THAT
THE OGOTAI WARLORDS HAVE RECEIVED
THE ORDER TO PUT THEIR MEN INTO
INTENSIVE TRAINING, AND
THEY'RE LAUNCHING RAIDS
OUT TO THE COASTS TO
RECRUIT NEW TROOPS.
THIS CAN ONLY MEAN
ONE THING...

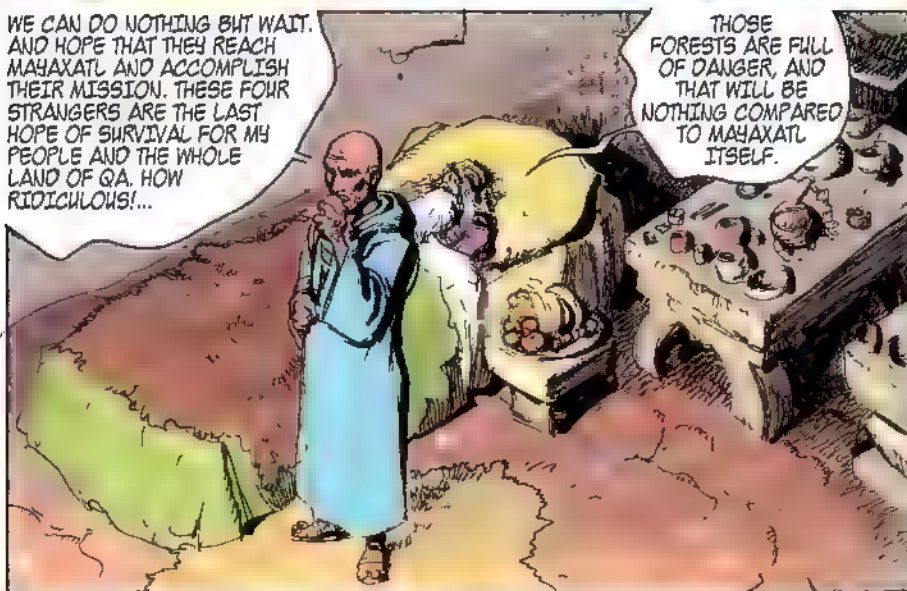


OGOTAI, CURSED BE HIS NAME, HAS
DECIDED TO FINISH THE XINJIN
ONCE AND FOR ALL. HE'S PREPARING
A MASSIVE INVASION, ONE WE
WILL BE QUITE
INCAPABLE OF
RESISTING.

AH... DO
WE HAVE
ANY NEWS
FROM THIS
KRISS OF
VALNOR?

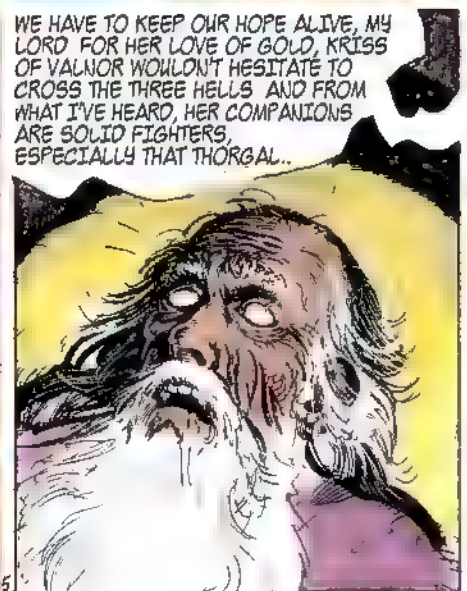


NO. THE VESSEL THAT WAS
TRANSPORTING HER WITH
HER COMPANIONS WAS
DESTROYED BY AN ENEMY
SQUADRON. BUT AFTER
HAVING PUT THEM DOWN
AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE
FORBIDDEN TERRITORIES.
THAT'S WHERE THE GUIDE
FROM THE SHEERSHECS
TRIBE WAS WAITING.

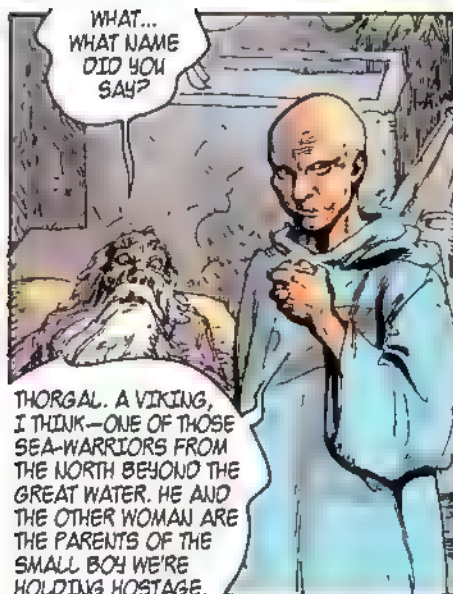


WE CAN DO NOTHING BUT WAIT.
AND HOPE THAT THEY REACH
MAYAXATL AND ACCOMPLISH
THEIR MISSION. THESE FOUR
STRANGERS ARE THE LAST
HOPE OF SURVIVAL FOR MY
PEOPLE AND THE WHOLE
LAND OF QA. HOW
RIDICULOUS!...

THOSE
FORESTS ARE FULL
OF DANGER, AND
THAT WILL BE
NOTHING COMPARED
TO MAYAXATL
ITSELF.



WE HAVE TO KEEP OUR HOPE ALIVE, MY
LORD. FOR HER LOVE OF GOLD, KRISS
OF VALNOR WOULDN'T HESITATE TO
CROSS THE THREE HELLS AND FROM
WHAT I'VE HEARD, HER COMPANIONS
ARE SOLID FIGHTERS,
ESPECIALLY THAT THORGAL...



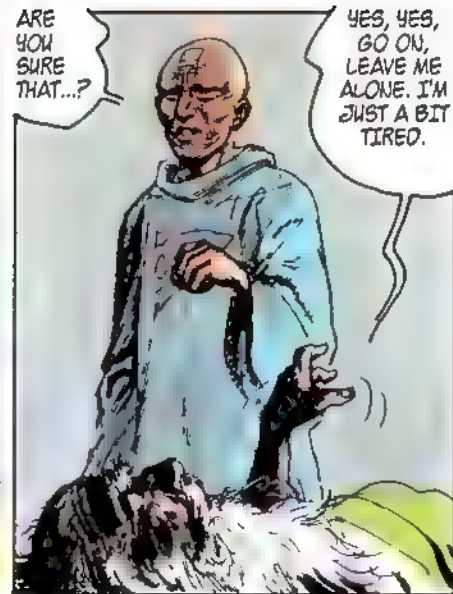
WHAT...
WHAT NAME
DID YOU
SAY?

THORGAL. A VIKING,
I THINK—ONE OF THOSE
SEA-WARRIORS FROM
THE NORTH BEYOND THE
GREAT WATER. HE AND
THE OTHER WOMAN ARE
THE PARENTS OF THE
SMALL BOY WE'RE
HOLDING HOSTAGE.



BUT WHAT IS IT,
MY LORD? DO
YOU WANT ME TO
CALL THEM?

NO,
VARIAY, NO,
IT'S NOTHING
LEAVE ME
NOW.



ARE
YOU
SURE
THAT...?

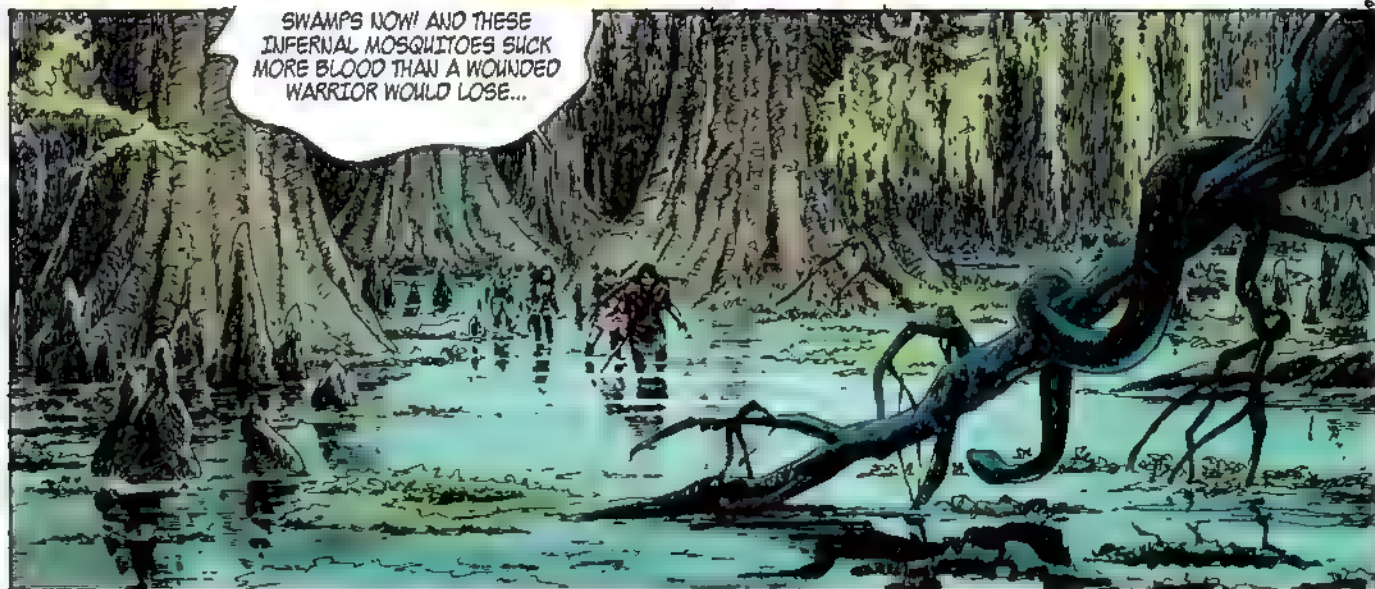
YES, YES,
GO ON,
LEAVE ME
ALONE. I'M
JUST A BIT
TIRED.



THORGAL... A VIKING...
COULD IT REALLY BE HE?
OUT OF MILLIONS OF
MEN? THAT WOULD BE...
SO DREADFUL...



AND HIS SON... THE SON OF THORGAL,
HERE, JUST A FEW METRES AWAY FROM
ME... WHAT IF THAT CHILD HAD...? OH,
I MUST KNOW... I MUST
BE SURE!...



SWAMPS NOW! AND THESE
INFERNAL MOSQUITOES SUCK
MORE BLOOD THAN A WOUNDED
WARRIOR WOULD LOSE...

MOSQUITOES, GIANT ANTS, SNAKES, LEECHES AND THOUSANDS OF OTHER ANFUL CREATURES THAT DON'T EVEN HAVE NAMES... THIS IS REALLY HEAVEN HERE! THANKS, KRISS OF VALNOR...

WOULD YOU MIND SAVING YOUR BREATH?

WHAT FOR? TO SING A HAPPY SONG TONIGHT AROUND THE FIRE, AFTER THE DELICIOUS MEAL THAT'S WAITING FOR US? THE SOONER I LOSE MY BREATH, THE BETTER IT WILL BE.

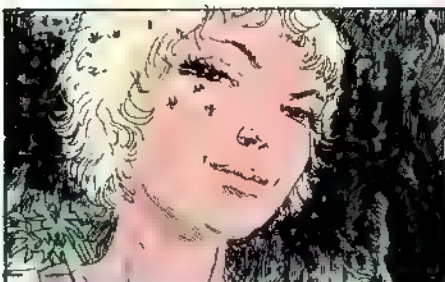
IF ONLY THAT WOULD STOP YOU FROM JABBERING LIKE AN OLD GAP-TOOTHED GRANDMOTHER.



BY THE ROTTEN ENTRAILS OF ALL THE DEMONS!!



WHAT ARE YOU STANDING THERE LOOKING AT ME FOR? YOU COULD HELP ME, COULDN'T YOU?



I DON'T MIND SAVING YOUR LIFE, LIKE I DID ON THE FLYING SHIP, BECAUSE I HAD TO. BUT GIVING YOU A HAND? NO WAY!

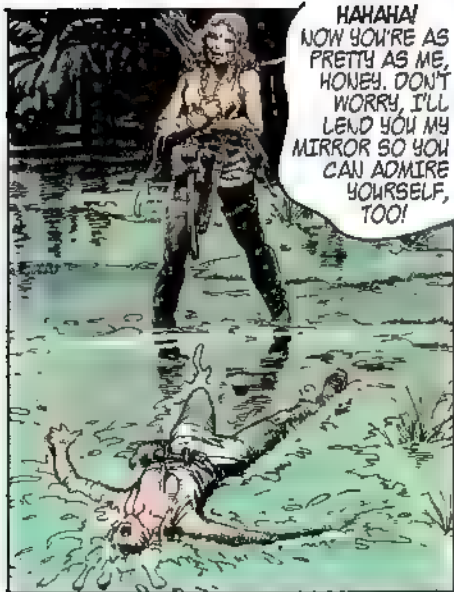


SORT YOURSELF OUT, PROUD WARRIOR. AND AFTER THAT, DON'T FORGET TO ADMIRE YOURSELF IN YOUR PRETTY LITTLE MIRROR. YOU'LL HAVE A SURPRISE



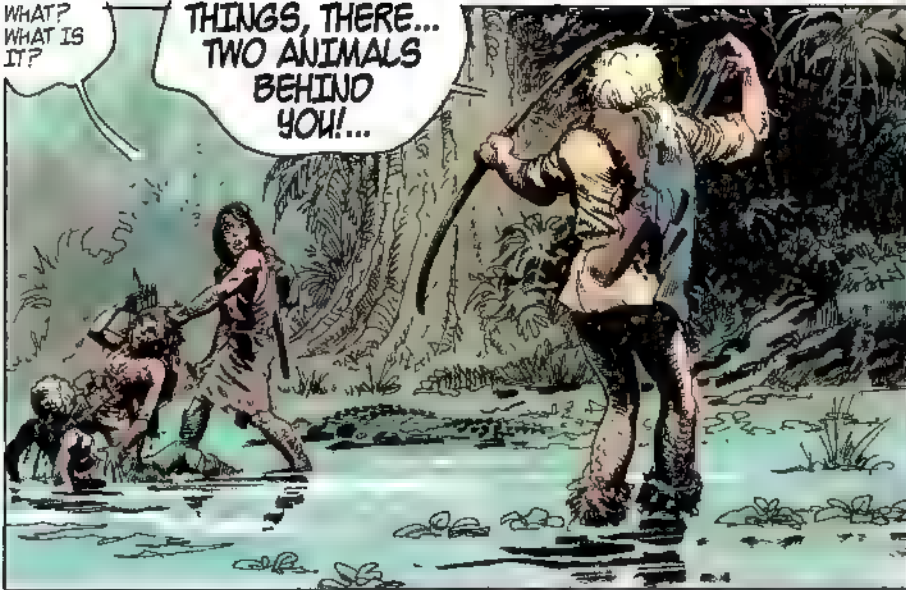
THAT, PRINCESS, IS THE CHANCE I WAS WAITING FOR...



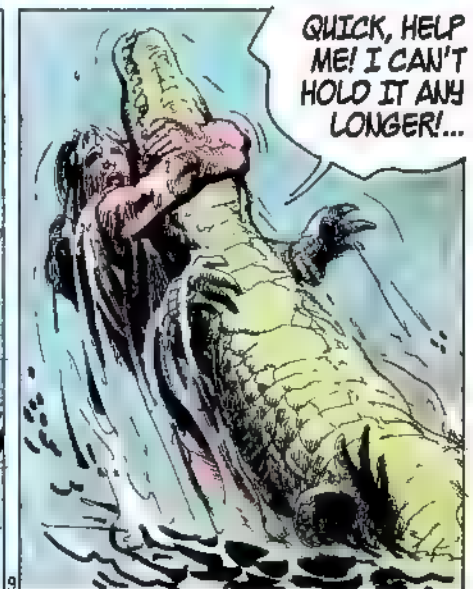
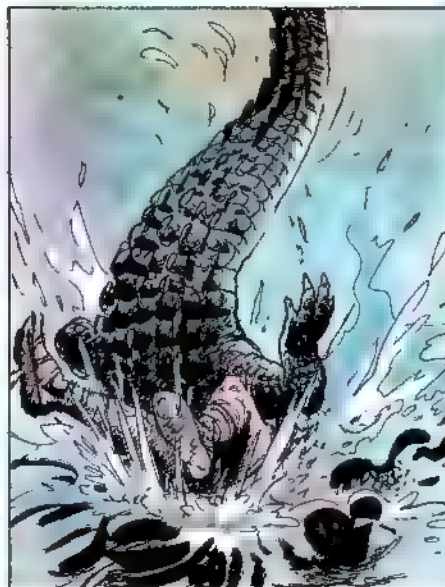


WHAT?
WHAT IS
IT?

THINGS, THERE...
TWO ANIMALS
BEHIND
YOU!...



NO, NO!
THORGAL, OVER
HERE!

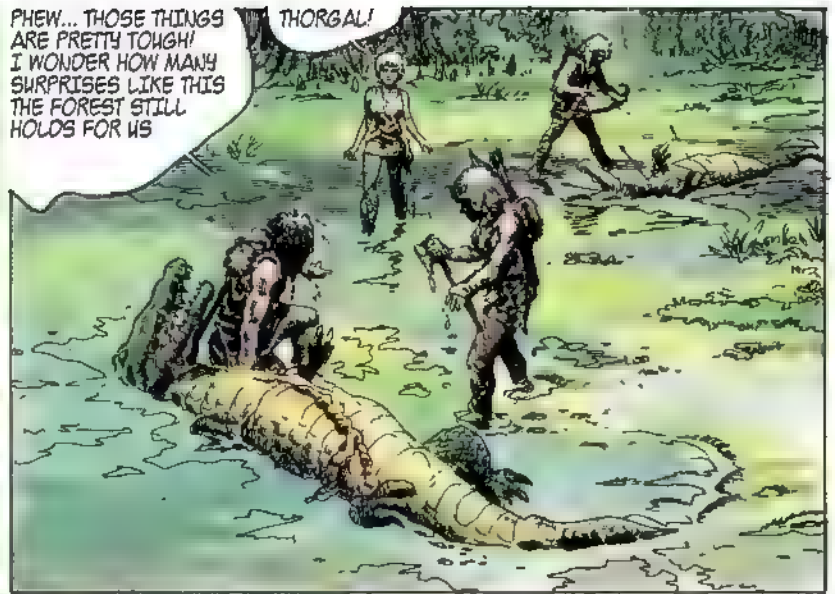


QUICK, HELP
ME! I CAN'T
HOLD IT ANY
LONGER!...



PHEW... THOSE THINGS ARE PRETTY TOUGH! I WONDER HOW MANY SURPRISES LIKE THIS THE FOREST STILL HOLDS FOR US

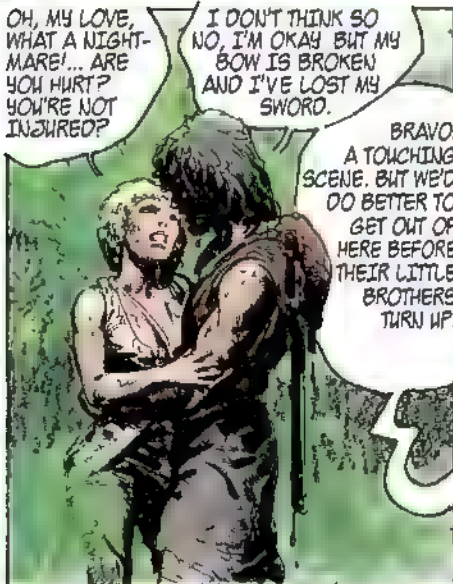
THORGAL!



OH, MY LOVE, WHAT A NIGHTMARE!... ARE YOU HURT? YOU'RE NOT INJURED?

I DON'T THINK SO NO, I'M OKAY BUT MY BOW IS BROKEN AND I'VE LOST MY SWORD.

BRAVO: A TOUCHING SCENE. BUT WE'D DO BETTER TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THEIR LITTLE BROTHERS TURN UP.

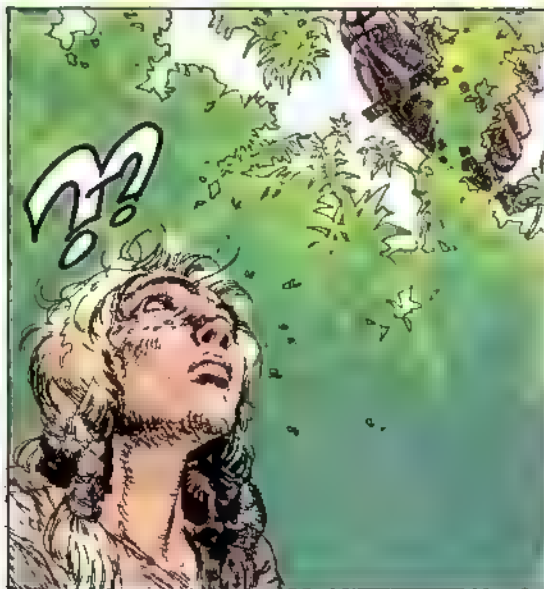
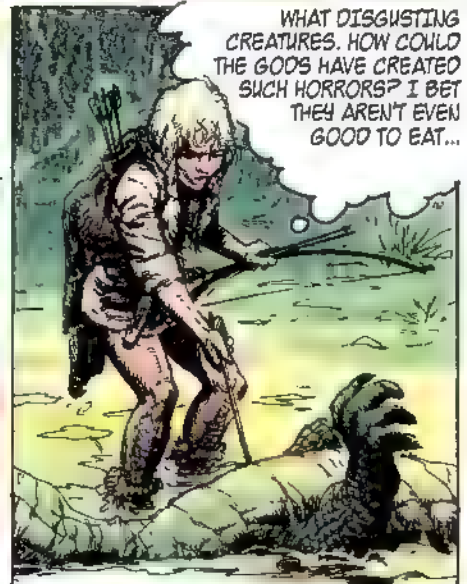


TJALL, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? COME HERE!

I'M COMING I'LL JUST GET MY ARROWS.



WHAT DISGUSTING CREATURES. HOW COULD THE GODS HAVE CREATED SUCH HORRORS? I BET THEY AREN'T EVEN GOOD TO EAT...



TAKE COVER, QUICK!





THEY'VE GONE.
THEY DIDN'T SEE US.
YOU THINK THEY WERE
LOOKING FOR US?

PERHAPS IT'S JUST
A ROUTINE PATROL. IN
ANY CASE, THAT PROVES
THAT WE ARE HEADED IN
THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

THORGAL,
WHAT IS IT? ARE
YOU IN PAIN?

WE HAVE TO
GET OUT OF THE
SWAMP. BROKEN
RIBS OR NOT, YOUR
POOR DARLING WILL
BE TOUGH ENOUGH
TO WALK A LITTLE
FURTHER.

THIS TIME,
KRISS OF VALNOR,
I'LL RIP YOUR
SERPENT TONGUE
OUT!...

IF YOU CARRY ON
LIKE THAT, WE'LL
HAVE NO CHANCE OF
GETTING OUT. YOU
HEAR ME, AARICIA?
NO CHANCE!

BECAUSE WE HAD ONE
IN THE FIRST PLACE,
YOU THINK? TJALL WAS
RIGHT: THIS FOREST
WILL BE OUR GRAVE,
AND ALL BECAUSE
OF THAT...



THAT'S
ENOUGH,
YOU TWO!



IT'S WHERE I WAS
HIT WITH THE
TAIL... I MUST
HAVE BROKEN SOME
RIBS... I'M JUST
GLAD THAT MY BOW
SOFTENED THE
BLOW.

MY POOR DARLING.
WE CAN CAMP HERE,
IN THESE ROOTS,
WHILE YOU GET
BETTER...



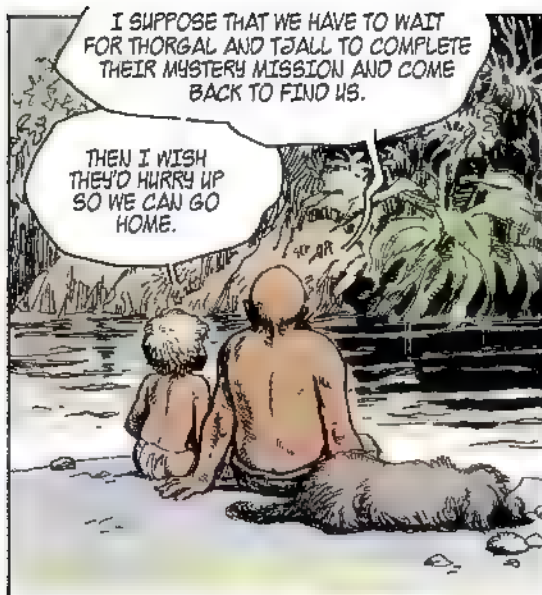
NO WAY!

SILENCE! THERE'S ALWAYS A CHANCE,
AARICIA, ALWAYS! WE'LL START BY
LOOKING FOR A DRY PLACE TO SET UP
CAMP, AND THERE WE WILL WAIT. I THINK
I HAVE A WAY TO FIND THE PATH TO
MAYAXATL FOR CERTAIN. A RISKY BUT
SIMPLE METHOD...



YOU THINK WE'LL BE
HERE FOR LONG,
TREE FOOT?

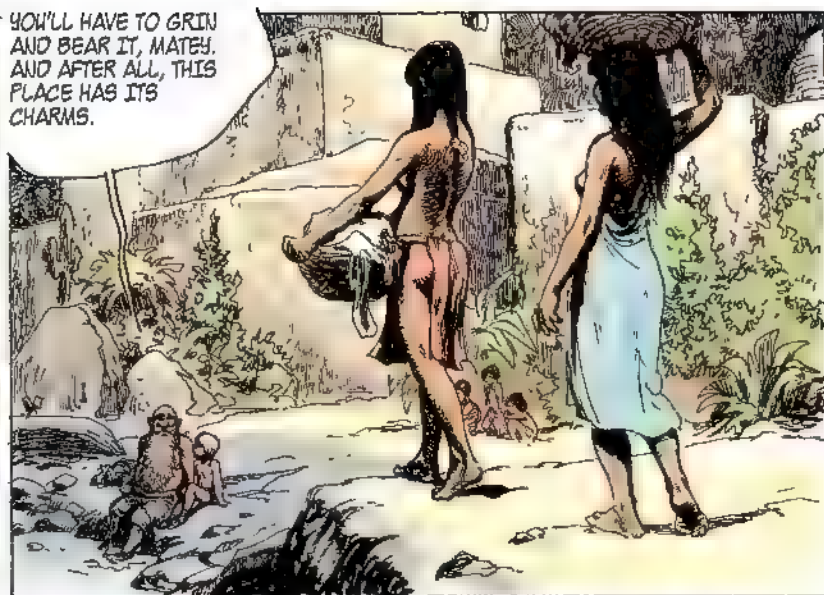
I HAVE
NO IDEA,
SONNY.



I SUPPOSE THAT WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR THORGAL AND TJALL TO COMPLETE THEIR MYSTERY MISSION AND COME BACK TO FIND US.

THEN I WISH THEY'D HURRY UP SO WE CAN GO HOME.

YOU'LL HAVE TO GRIN AND BEAR IT, MATEY. AND AFTER ALL, THIS PLACE HAS ITS CHARMS.



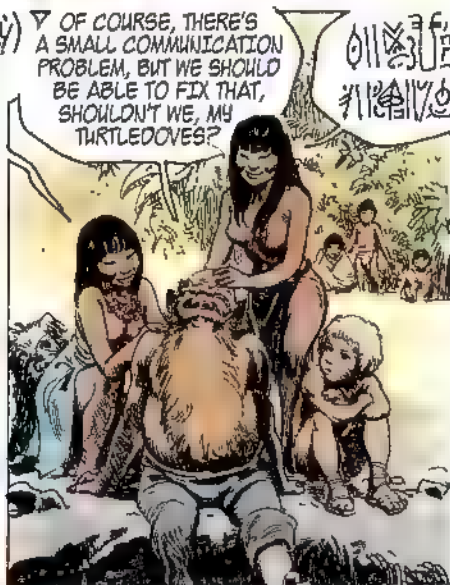
PERHAPS WE SHOULD GET TO KNOW THESE PEOPLE A LITTLE BETTER. TELL ME, MY TURTLEDOVES... BETWEEN YOUR WASHINGS, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE A SMALL MOMENT TO MASSAGE THE BACK OF A POOR OLD CRIPPLED MAN RIDDLED WITH RHEUMATISM?



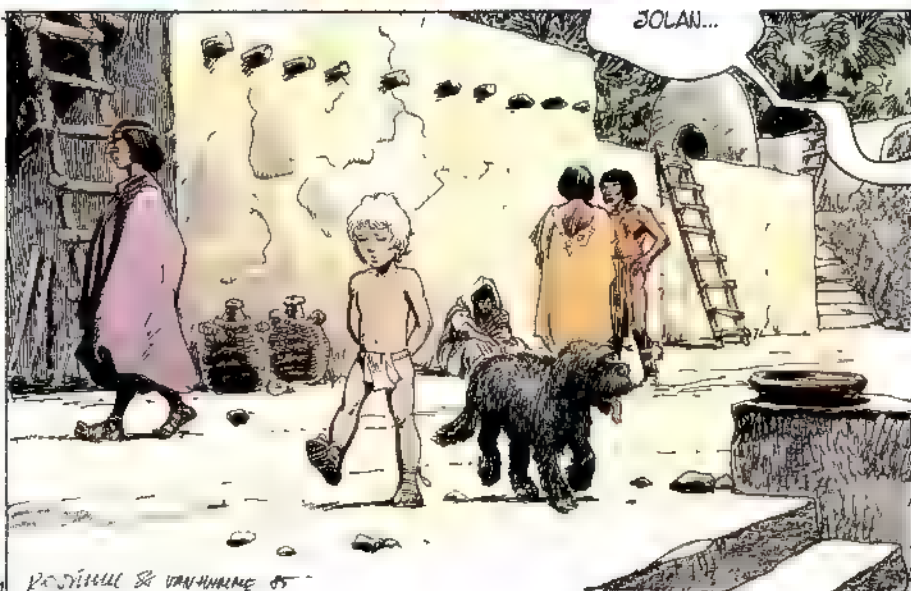
XXXXXXXXXX

OF COURSE, THERE'S A SMALL COMMUNICATION PROBLEM, BUT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIX THAT, SHOULDN'T WE, MY TURTLEDOVES?

XXXXXXXXXX



SAY THERE, SONNY, WHY DON'T YOU... ERM... TAKE SOME TIME TO SEE THE VILLAGE? IT MUST BE VERY INTERESTING... ME WITHOUT MY WOODEN LEG, YOU UNDERSTAND...



JOLAN...

ROSTINER & VAN HULME '85

COME WITH ME. THE LORD GOD TANATLOC WANTS TO SPEAK TO YOU.

WHO'S THAT? TANATLOC? AND ANYWAY, I DON'T WANT TO GO. NOT WITHOUT TREE FOOT.



DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR COMPANION. OUR YOUNG LADIES WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES.

AS LONG AS WHAT TAKES? I TOLD YOU I DON'T WANT TO GO.



ANYWAY, WHY DO YOU SAY THAT HE'S A GOD? REAL GODS CAN'T BE SEEN.

MIND WHAT YOU SAY, JOLAN. TANATLOC IS VERY OLD, BUT HE STILL HAS GREAT POWERS.



HERE'S THE CHILD, MY LORD.

THANK YOU, VARIAY. LEAVE US, NOW.

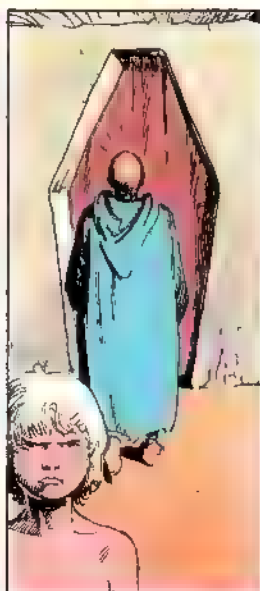


THAT IS NOT PRUDENT, MY LORD. THIS KID IS A REBEL. HE COULD...

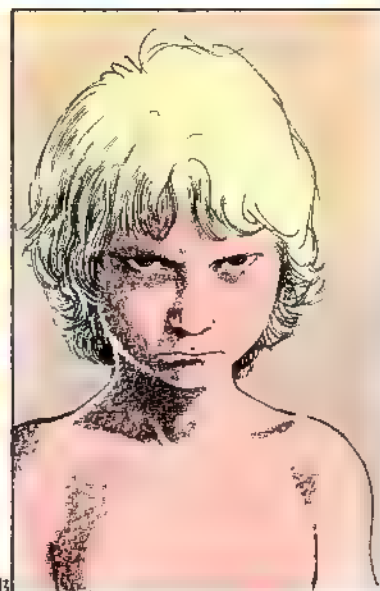
HE WON'T DO ANYTHING TO ME, VARIAY. AND WHAT I HAVE TO TELL HIM MUST NOT BE HEARD. EVEN BY YOU.



VERY WELL.



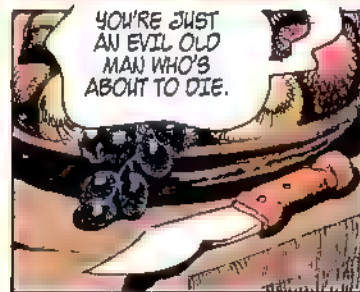
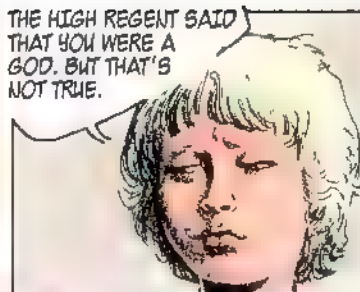
COME CLOSER, JOLAN. YOUR NAME IS JOLAN, ISN'T IT? ...



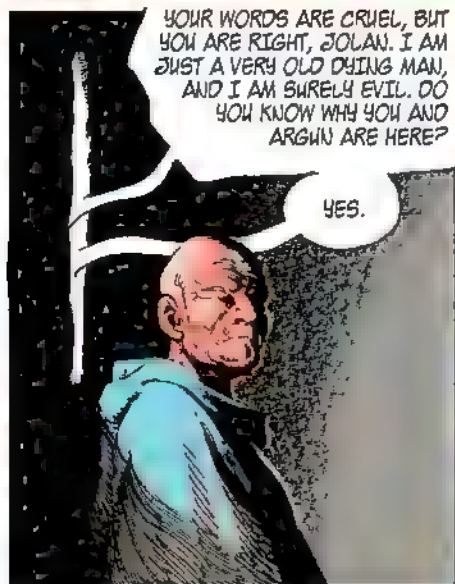


DO NOT BE AFRAID, MY CHILD. MY EYES CAN NO LONGER SEE YOU, AND I JUST WANTED TO TOUCH YOUR FACE WITH MY HAND.

I'M NOT AFRAID.



YOU'RE JUST AN EVIL OLD MAN WHO'S ABOUT TO DIE.

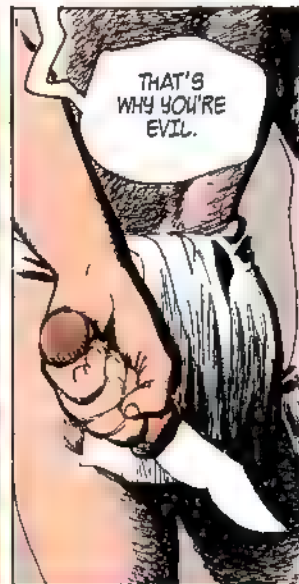


YOUR WORDS ARE CRUEL, BUT YOU ARE RIGHT, JOLAN. I AM JUST A VERY OLD DYING MAN, AND I AM SURELY EVIL. DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU AND ARGUN ARE HERE?

YES.



YOU'RE KEEPING US PRISONER TO FORCE MY FATHER AND TALL, TREE FOOT'S NEPHEW, TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOU.



THAT'S WHY YOU'RE EVIL.

WE HAVE GIVEN THORGAL AND HIS COMPANIONS THE TASK OF RETRIEVING THE MAGIC HEADPIECE FROM A MAN KNOWN AS OGOTAI. HE REIGNS OVER A CITY CALLED MAHAXATL THAT HE HAD BUILT AT THE HEART OF THE GREAT WILD FOREST. IT'S FAR TO THE SOUTH OF HERE.



THANKS TO THE POWERS THAT HIS HEADPIECE GIVES HIM, HE, TOO, IS TAKEN FOR A GOD BY HIS PEOPLE.

BUT HE IS A CRUEL GOD, JOLAN. A RUTHLESS TYRANT WHO ONLY SEEKS TO DOMINATE OUR LAND BY FIRE AND BLOOD.

THE PEOPLE FROM HERE, THE XINGJIN, ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO WERE ABLE TO RESIST HIM UNTIL NOW. BUT NOT FOR MUCH LONGER.

THAT'S WHY THE MISSION GIVEN TO YOUR FATHER AND HIS FRIENDS IS SO IMPORTANT FOR US. THEY ARE OUR LAST CHANCE TO BEAT OGOTAI'S DESTRUCTIVE POWER AND FREE THE LAND OF QA FROM HIS BLOODY FURY.

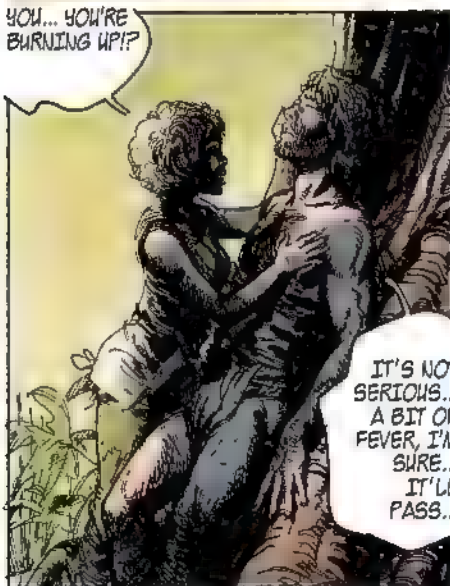
YOU'RE NOT HURTING TOO MUCH?

IT'S OKAY... IT'S BEARABLE.

IT'LL BE EASIER TO WALK ON SOLID GROUND. I'M NOT SORRY TO GET OUT OF THIS HORRID LIQUID FINALLY.

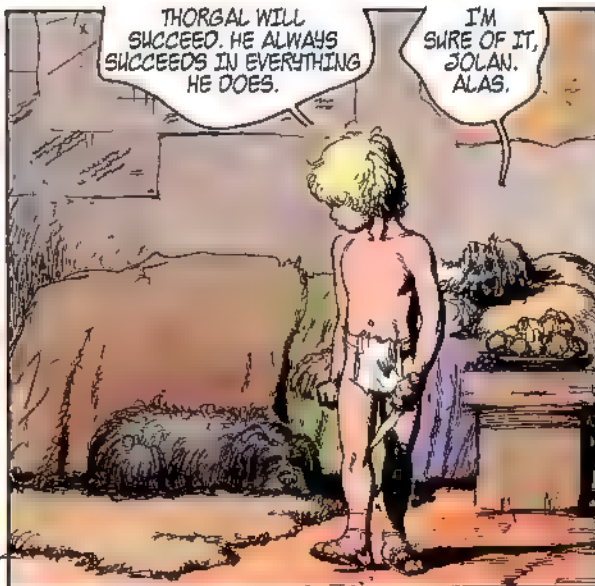


YOU... YOU'RE BURNING UP?



IT'S NOT SERIOUS... A BIT OF FEVER, I'M SURE... IT'LL PASS...

THOR GAL WILL SUCCEED. HE ALWAYS SUCCEEDS IN EVERYTHING HE DOES.

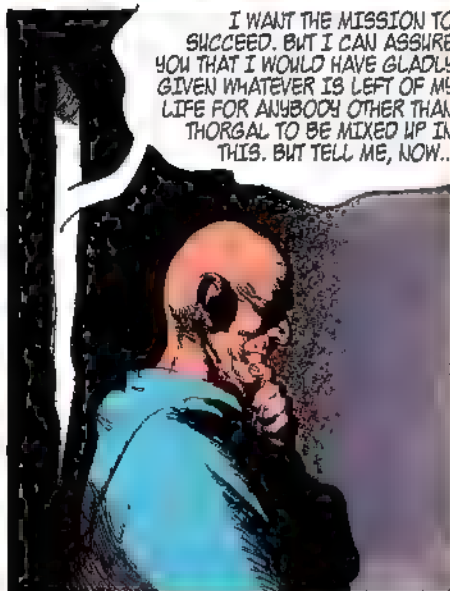


I'M SURE OF IT, JOLAN. ALAS.

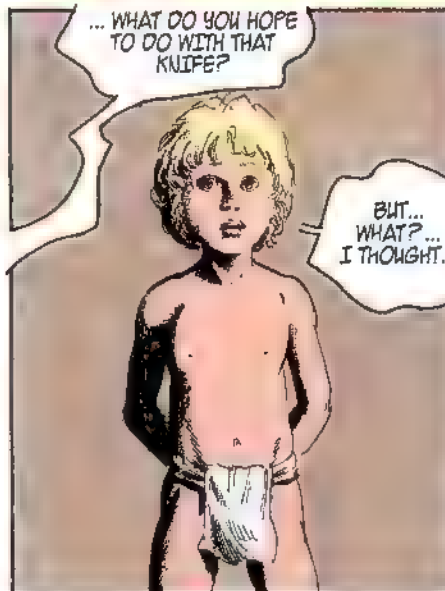
WHY ALAS? DON'T YOU WANT HIM TO SUCCEED?



I WANT THE MISSION TO SUCCEED. BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I WOULD HAVE GLADLY GIVEN WHATEVER IS LEFT OF MY LIFE FOR ANYBODY OTHER THAN THOR GAL TO BE MIXED UP IN THIS. BUT TELL ME, NOW...



... WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO DO WITH THAT KNIFE?



BUT... WHAT? ... I THOUGHT...

MY EYES HAVE LOST LIGHT, JOLAN, BUT I CAN STILL READ YOUR MIND AND USE YOUR EYES. HOLD OUT YOUR ARM AND LOOK AT THAT KNIFE THAT YOU'RE HOLDING SO TIGHTLY. LOOK CLOSELY!



LIKE THIS?
WHAT'S
HA...



?



???



IT DISAPPEARED!! IT'S...
IT'S MAGIC! ARE YOU
REALLY A GOD, THEN?
OR A WIZARD?...

NEITHER ONE
NOR THE OTHER
I HAVE CERTAIN
POWERS, IT'S
TRUE...



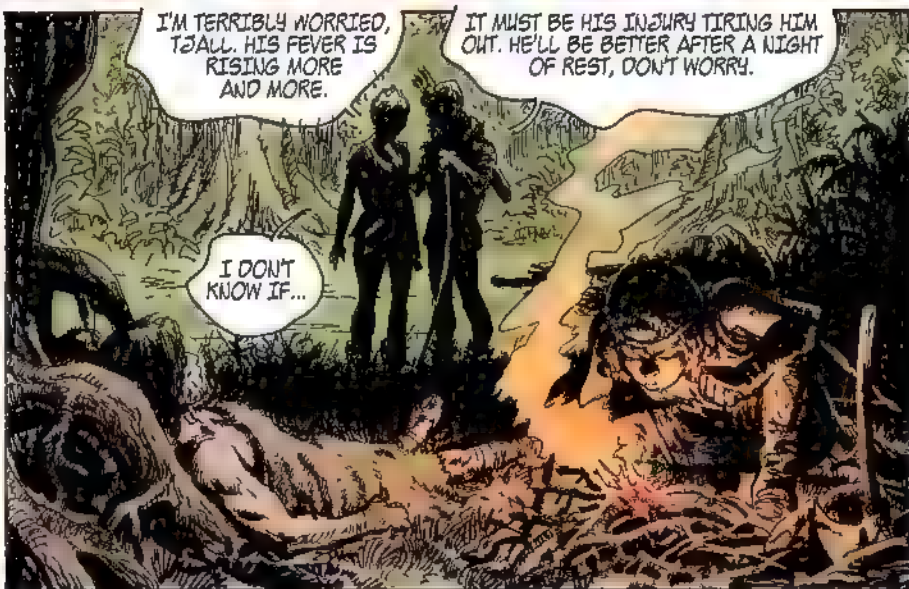
I USED YOUR EYES AND
GUIDED YOUR MIND, BUT IT WAS
NOT I WHO MADE THE KNIFE
DISAPPEAR, JOLAN.
IT WAS YOU!



I'M TERRIBLY WORRIED,
TJALL. HIS FEVER IS
RISING MORE
AND MORE.

IT MUST BE HIS INJURY TIRING HIM
OUT. HE'LL BE BETTER AFTER A NIGHT
OF REST, DON'T WORRY.

I DON'T
KNOW IF...



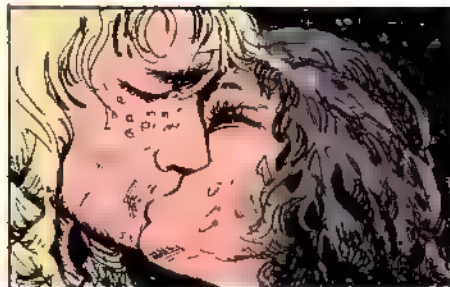
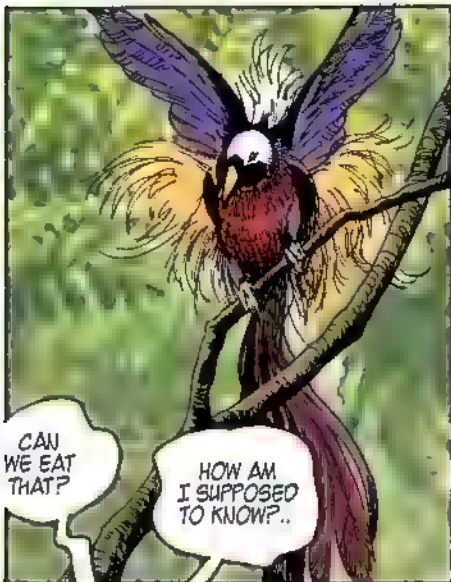
GO AND WATCH THE FIRE,
AARICIA. WITH THIS DAMP
WOOD, I HAD SOME TROUBLE
GETTING IT TO TAKE. YOU,
TJALL, YOU'RE COMING
WITH ME. WE'RE GOING
TO TRY TO CATCH
SOMETHING TO EAT.



AND HURRY UP. IT'LL
SOON BE NIGHT.

ALL RIGHT,
ALL RIGHT,
I'M COMING.





*SEE THE ARCHERS.

I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME, KRISS. I... YES, OF COURSE, I WAS MAD AT YOU FOR THAT... BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, I... THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU, I... I FIND YOU SO BEAUTIFUL...

IN THE FILTHY STATE I'M IN NOW, YOU'RE NOT TOO PARTICULAR.

BUT IT'S NICE OF YOU TO TELL ME. TALL, HAVE YOU MET A LOT OF WOMEN IN YOUR LIFE?

ERM... I... I MEAN...

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT. COME, TALL THE SEDUCER, LET'S GO BACK TO CAMP BEFORE IT GETS TOO DARK...

YOU SEE ALL THOSE STARS, JOLAN?

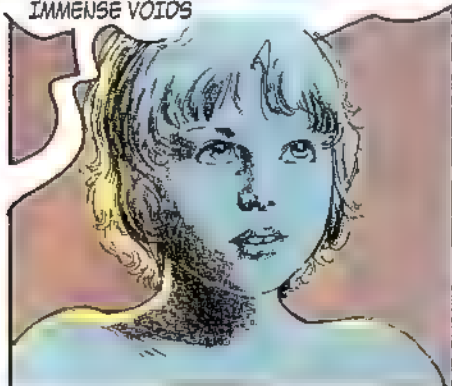
YES.

MOST OF THEM ARE JUST ENORMOUS BALLS OF FIRE FLOATING IN SPACE. BUT SOME OF THEM ARE PLANETS, WORLDS LIKE THE ONE WE LIVE ON. YOU KNOW, I SUPPOSE THAT THORGAL'S PARENTS CAME FROM ONE OF THOSE WORLDS...

YES.

BEYOND THE THOUSANDS OF STARS THAT YOU SEE, THERE ARE MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF OTHERS. AND MILLIONS OF WORLDS. TO THE INFINITY OF THE HEAVENS. THAT INFINITY, JOLAN, IS CALLED THE UNIVERSE.

THE SECRET KNOWLEDGE IS THAT EVERYTHING THAT SURROUNDS US IS IN THE IMAGE OF THIS UNIVERSE. EACH THING, EACH BEING, FROM THE MOST MINUTE SPECK OF DUST TO THE MOST GIGANTIC COLOSSUS, IS SEEMINGLY COMPOSED OF MILLIONS OF STARS. MINISCULE STARS, INVISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE, LINKED TO EACH OTHER BY ENORMOUS FORCES THROUGH THE IMMENSE VOIDS



THOSE MINISCULE STARS ARE ALL THE SAME. IT'S THE DIFFERENT WAYS THAT THEY ARE ASSEMBLED THAT GIVES DIFFERENT NATURES AND SHAPES TO THINGS.

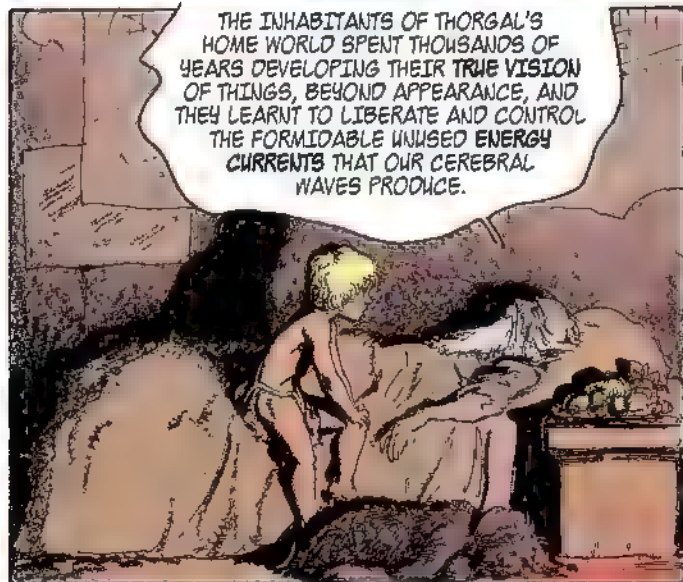


I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND VERY WELL.

I KNOW, JOLAN, YOU'RE STILL JUST A SMALL BOY. BUT I HAVE SO LITTLE TIME LEFT... EVERYTHING I TELL YOU WILL STAY IN YOUR MEMORY. AND LATER, WHEN YOU REMEMBER MY WORDS, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND. YOU WILL LEARN TO SEE.



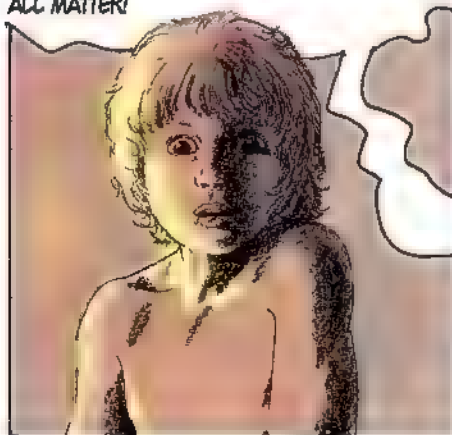
THE INHABITANTS OF THORGAL'S HOME WORLD SPENT THOUSANDS OF YEARS DEVELOPING THEIR TRUE VISION OF THINGS, BEYOND APPEARANCE, AND THEY LEARNED TO LIBERATE AND CONTROL THE FORMIDABLE UNUSED ENERGY CURRENTS THAT OUR CEREBRAL WAVES PRODUCE.



YOU, YOUNG JOLAN, YOU POSSESS THESE ENERGY WAVES. I CAN FEEL THEM FLOW FROM YOU LIKE AN IMPRISONED TORRENT BEING SET FREE. YOUR FATHER DOES NOT HAVE THIS ABILITY. BUT HE PASSED DOWN TO YOU, WITHOUT KNOWING IT, YOUR ANCESTORS' HERITAGE. THIS ENERGY: YOU MUST LEARN TO MASTER IT.



IT'S IMPORTANT, AS THESE ENERGY WAVES CAN BE STRONGER, IF YOU WANT THEM TO BE, THAN THE FORCES THAT LINK THE STARS TO EACH OTHER FORMING THINGS. THUS, YOU CAN MODIFY THEIR ARRANGEMENT AT YOUR WILL—TRANSFORMING THE VERY NATURE OF ALL MATTER!



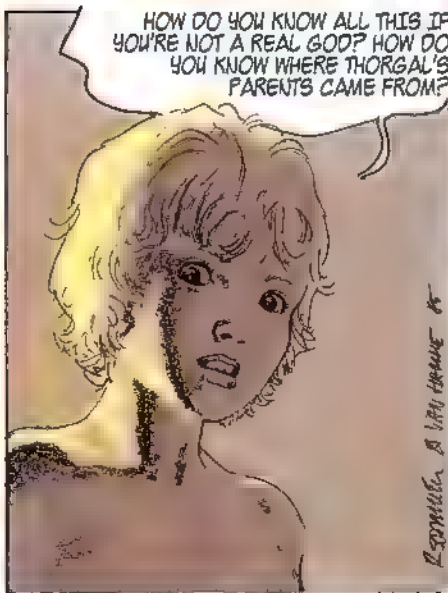
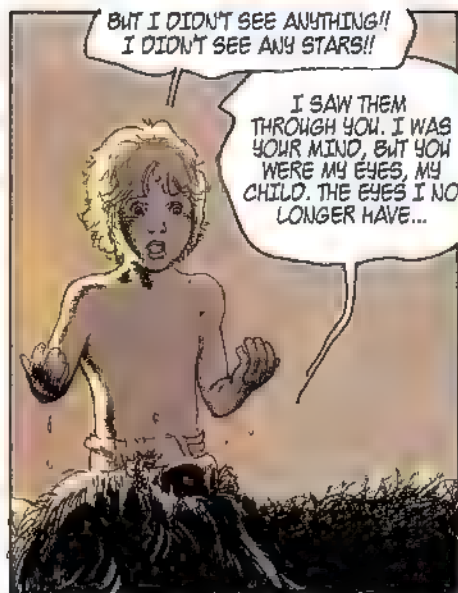
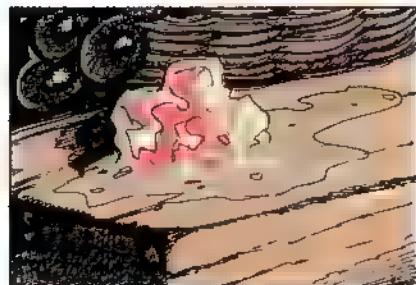
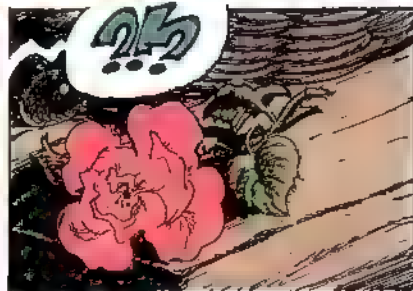
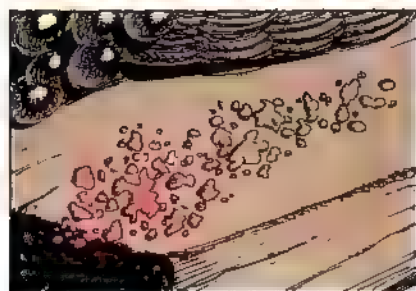
YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT I CAN MAKE OBJECTS, LIKE THE KNIFE, DISAPPEAR?

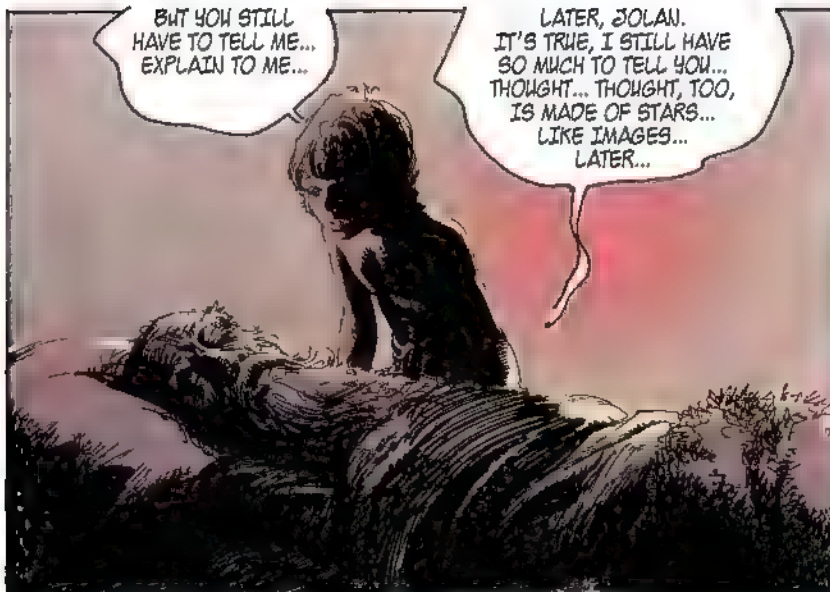


YES. OR CHANGE SHAPE. OR WEIGHT. OR YOU CAN EVEN CREATE THEM.

THE KNIFE DISAPPEARED BECAUSE THE SMALL STARS THAT FORMED THE METAL IT WAS MADE OF WERE SEPARATED. BUT THE STARS, THEY STILL EXIST AROUND US. WITH BILLIONS OF OTHERS, ALL IDENTICAL. THEY ARE WHAT YOU MUST LEARN TO SEE, JOLAN. LOOK...







BUT YOU STILL
HAVE TO TELL ME...
EXPLAIN TO ME...

LATER, JOLAN.
IT'S TRUE, I STILL HAVE
SO MUCH TO TELL YOU...
THOUGHT... THOUGHT, TOO,
IS MADE OF STARS...
LIKE IMAGES...
LATER...

NO, NOW. LATER YOU
COULD BE DEAD...

LEAVE HIM,
JOLAN. HE IS
SLEEPING.

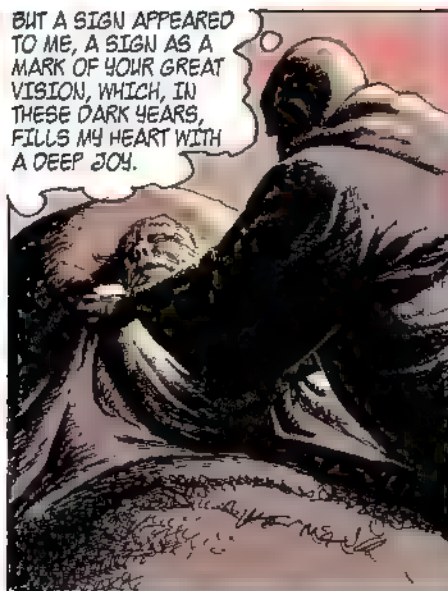


BUT...

WE'LL TAKE
YOU BACK TO
YOUR ROOM. DON'T
WORRY. I'LL LOOK
AFTER HIM.



I HEARD PLENTY
OF STRANGE
SECRETS TONIGHT,
MY LORD AND
PLENTY OF
MYSTERIES
THAT I HAVE NOT
UNDERSTOOD.



BUT A SIGN APPEARED
TO ME, A SIGN AS A
MARK OF YOUR GREAT
VISION, WHICH, IN
THESE DARK YEARS,
FILLS MY HEART WITH
A DEEP JOY.

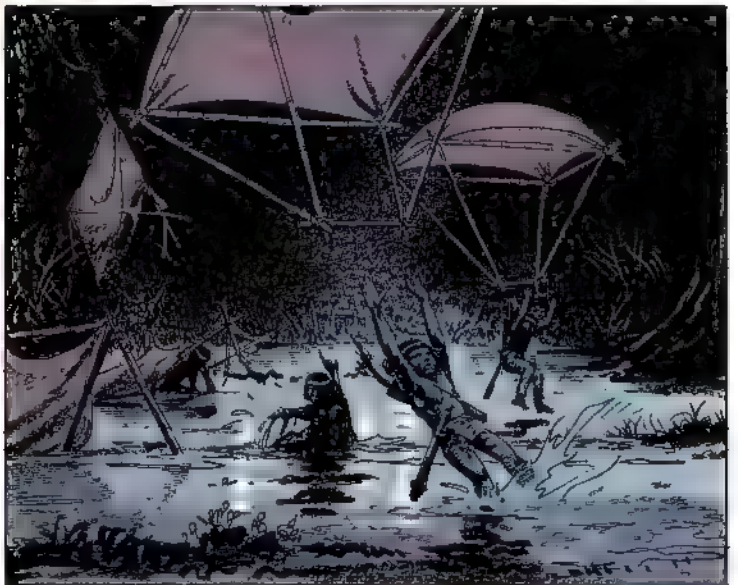
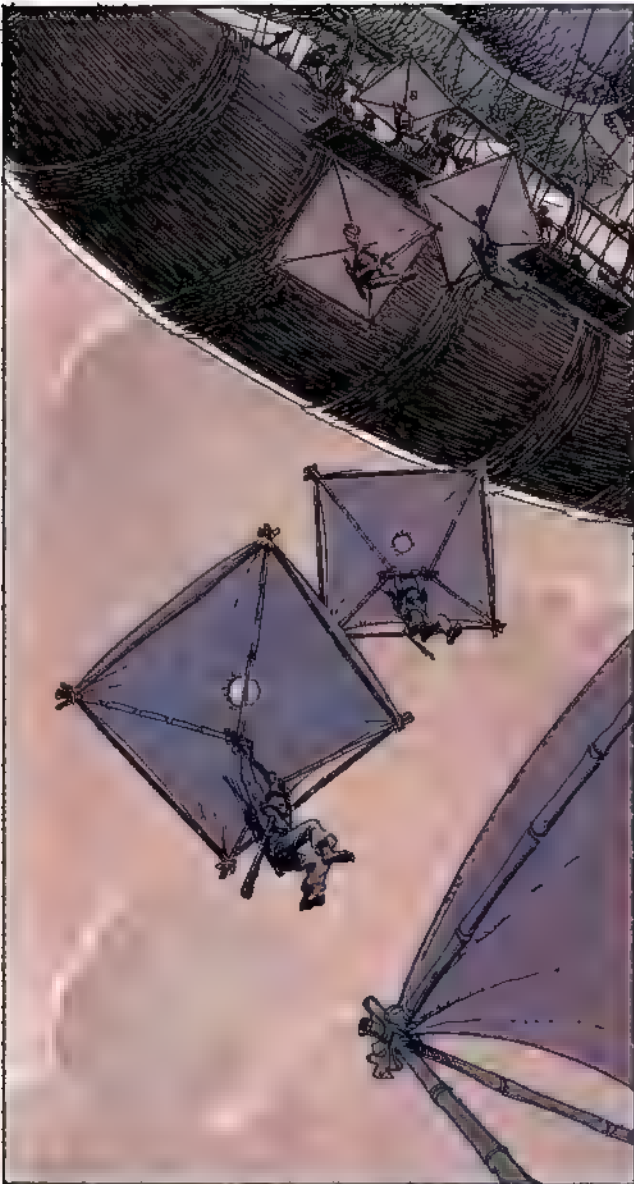


GLORY BE TO YOU,
TANATLOC: IN THE TWILIGHT
OF YOUR LIFE, THE XINJIN
WILL HAVE A NEW GOD
TO GUIDE THEM.

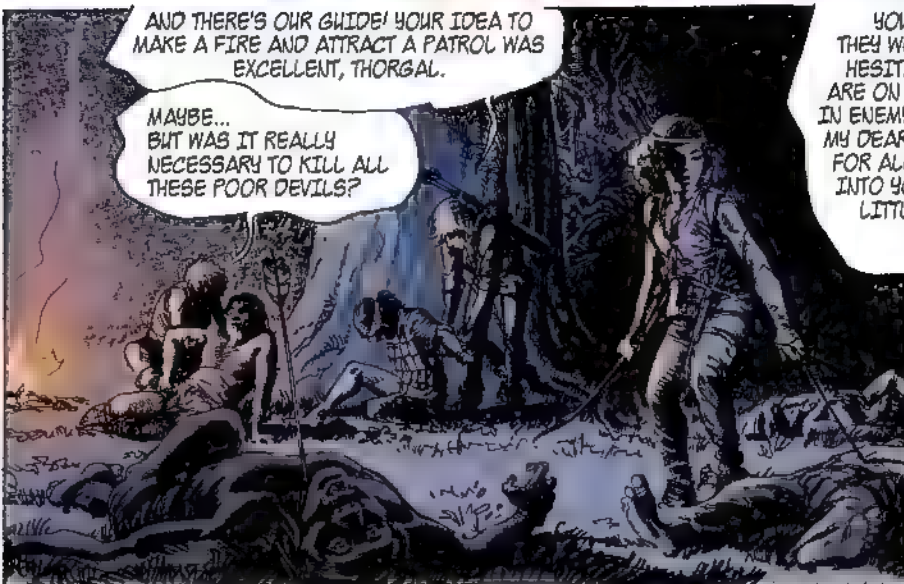
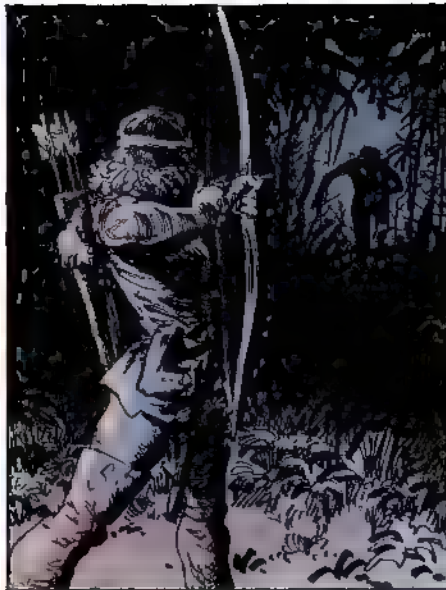


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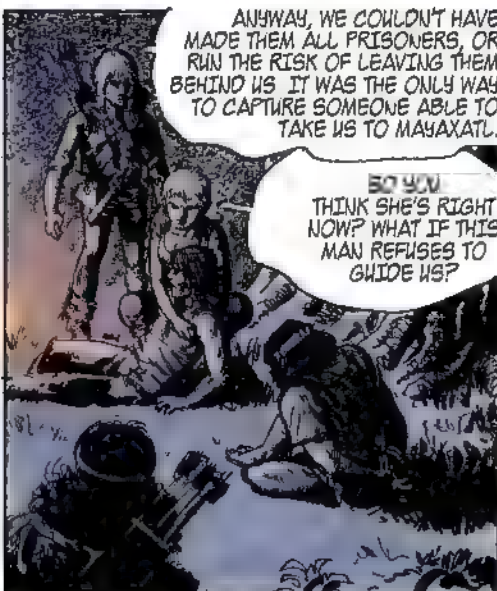




AND THERE'S OUR GUIDE! YOUR IDEA TO MAKE A FIRE AND ATTRACT A PATROL WAS EXCELLENT, THORGAL.

MAYBE... BUT WAS IT REALLY NECESSARY TO KILL ALL THESE POOR DEVILS?

YOU THINK THEY WOULD HAVE HESITATED? WE ARE ON A MISSION IN ENEMY TERRITORY, MY DEAR. ONCE AND FOR ALL, GET THAT INTO YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD.



ANYWAY, WE COULDN'T HAVE MADE THEM ALL PRISONERS, OR RUN THE RISK OF LEAVING THEM BEHIND US. IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO CAPTURE SOMEONE ABLE TO TAKE US TO MAYAXATL.

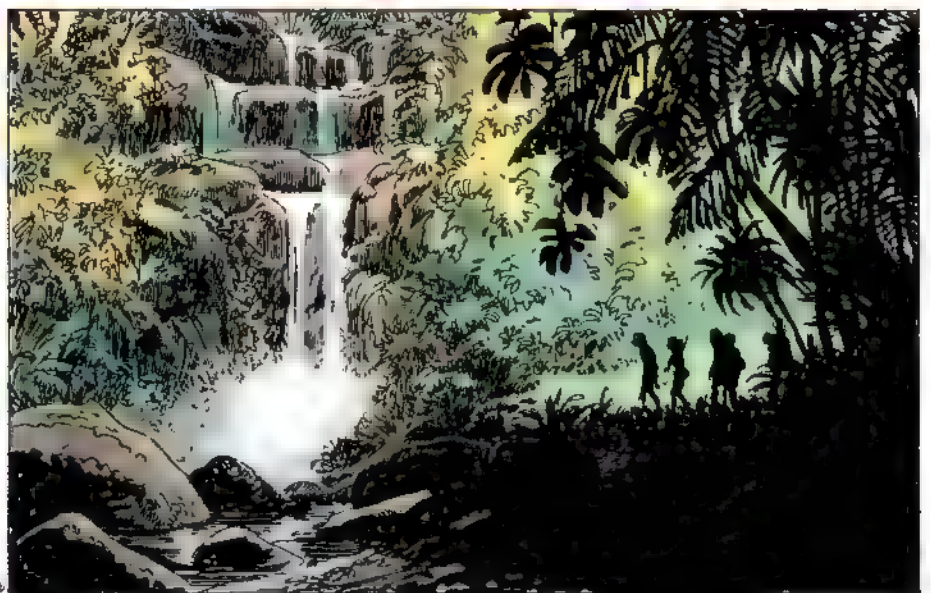
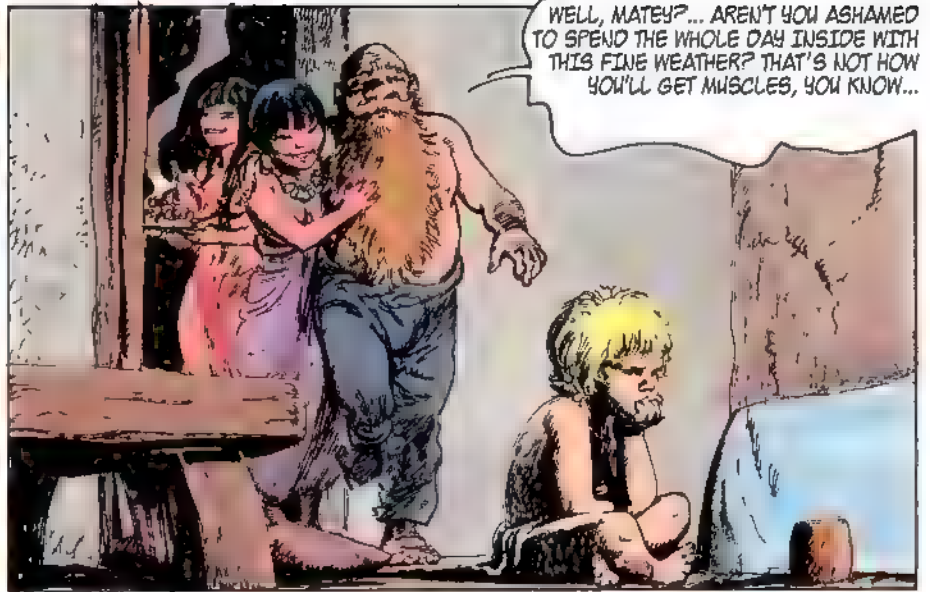
SO YOU THINK SHE'S RIGHT NOW? WHAT IF THIS MAN REFUSES TO GUIDE US?

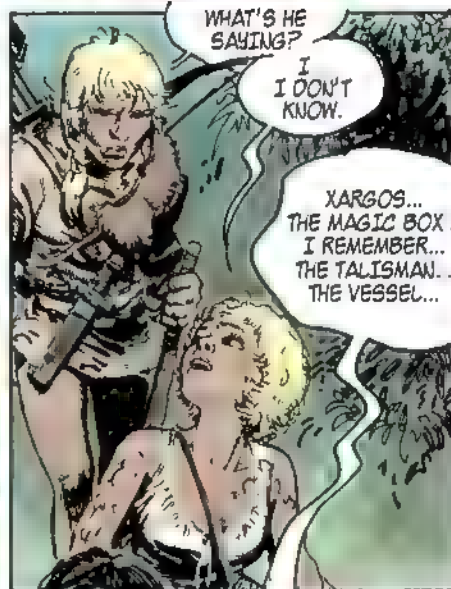
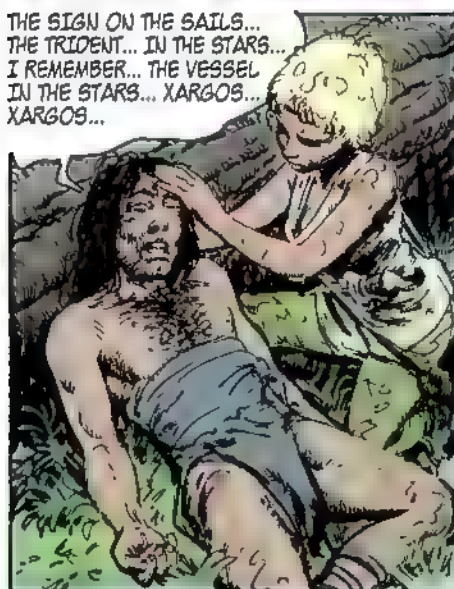
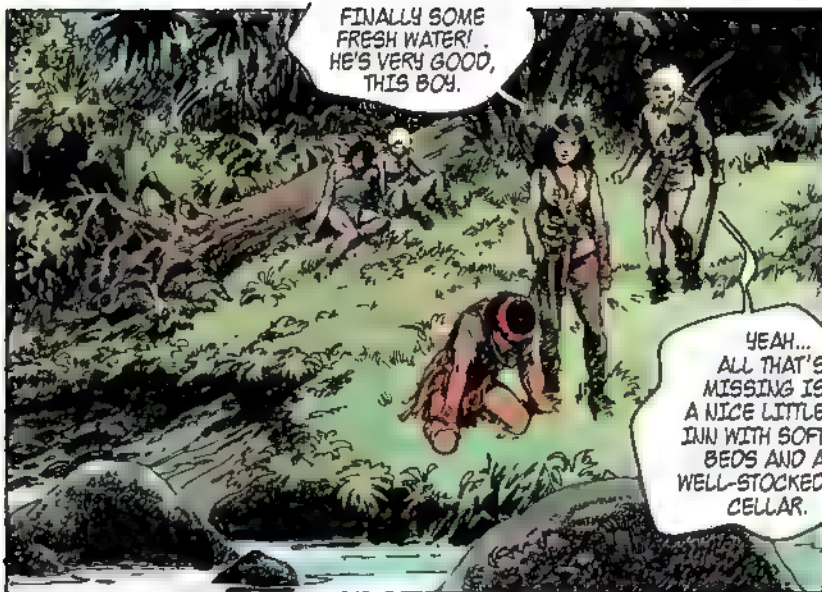


DON'T WORRY. AFTER A SIMPLE LITTLE "CONVERSATION," HE'LL TAKE US TO HELL IF I ASK HIM. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MY SWEET?



ENOUGH TALKING NOW. LET'S PUT OUT THE FIRE AND GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE OUR FRIENDS UP THERE SEND ANOTHER PATROL TO LOOK FOR THE FIRST ONE.







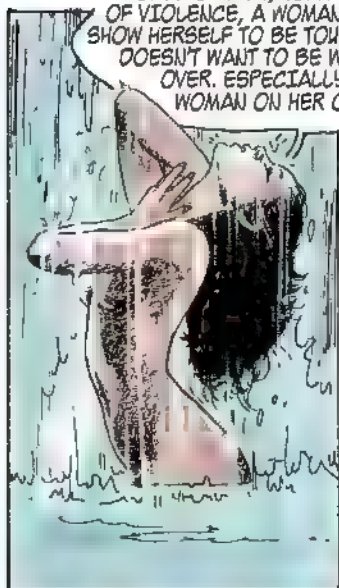
BUT TO SURVIVE IN YOUR WORLD OF MEN, YOUR WORLD OF VIOLENCE, A WOMAN HAS TO SHOW HERSELF TO BE TOUGH IF SHE DOESN'T WANT TO BE WALKED OVER. ESPECIALLY A WOMAN ON HER OWN.



I KNOW YOU'RE THERE, T'ALL... NO, STAY... IN FACT, I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU.



YOU HATE ME, DON'T YOU? FOR FORCING YOU TO FOLLOW ME, YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS, BY KIDNAPPING TREE FOOT AND SOLAN? YOU THINK I'M HEARTLESS, HARD, EVEN CRUEL...

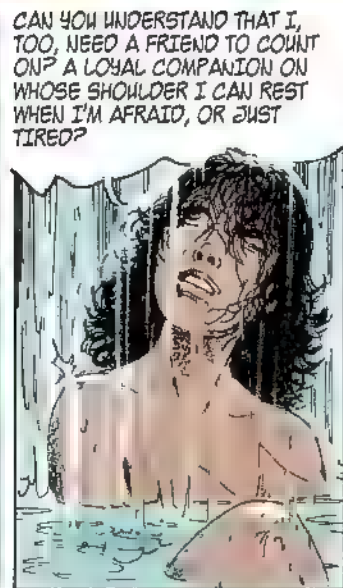


I AM ON MY OWN, T'ALL. ALONE AND OFTEN... LOST.



LOST?... YOU?

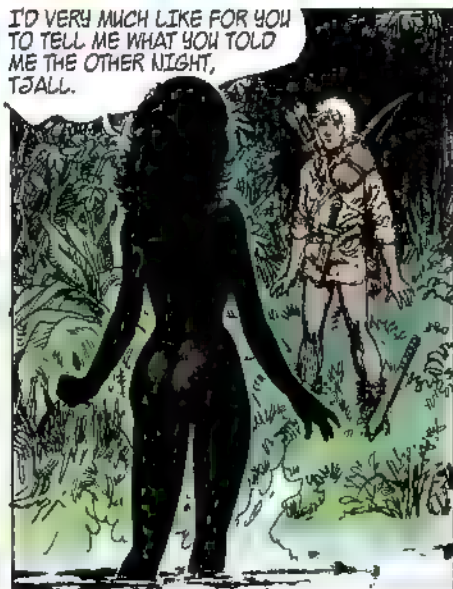
I KNOW I MAY SEEM TOUGH, ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT I'M DIFFERENT FROM OTHER WOMEN?



CAN YOU UNDERSTAND THAT I, TOO, NEED A FRIEND TO COUNT ON? A LOYAL COMPANION ON WHOSE SHOULDER I CAN REST WHEN I'M AFRAID, OR JUST TIRED?



A YOUNG AND FIERY MAN WHO KNOWS HOW TO PROTECT ME... A GREAT ARCHER WITH WHOM TO SHARE THE EXCITEMENT OF ADVENTURE... A TENDER AND HAPPY BOY I COULD LOVE...

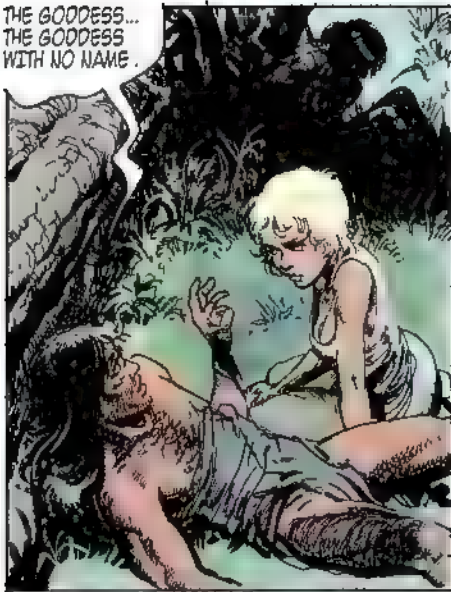


I'D VERY MUCH LIKE FOR YOU TO TELL ME WHAT YOU TOLD ME THE OTHER NIGHT, T'ALL.



WHERE DID THEY GET TO?

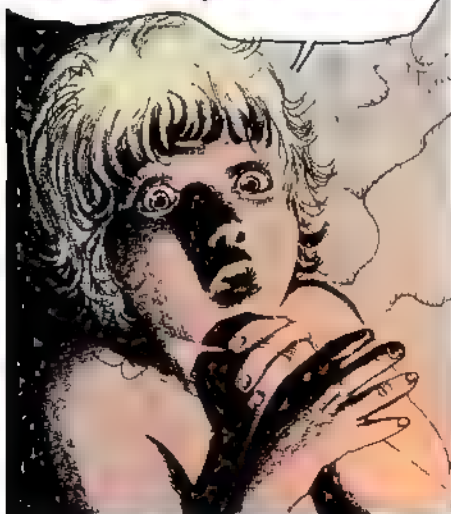
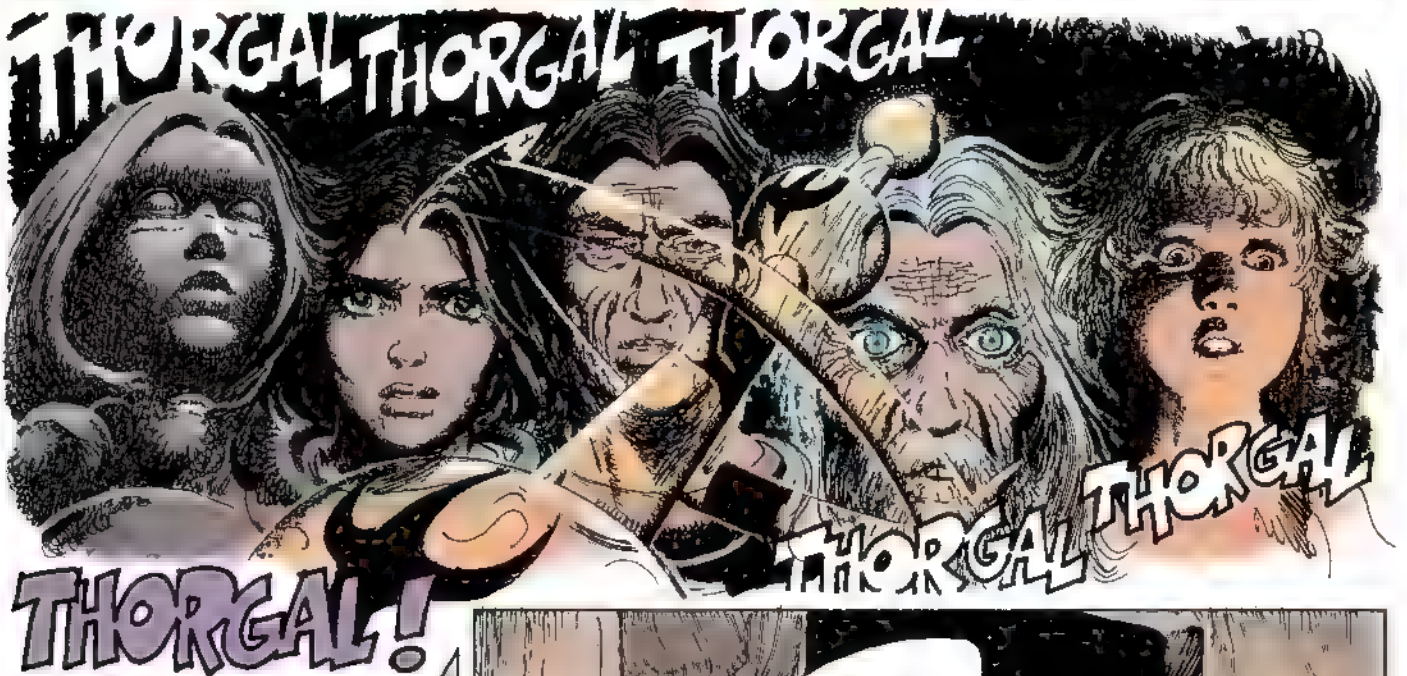
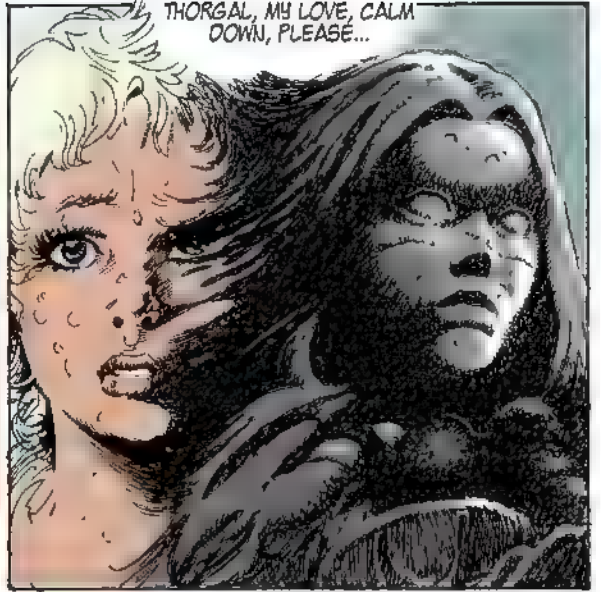
THE GODDESS...
THE GODDESS
WITH NO NAME.



IT'S HER... THE GODDESS
WITH NO NAME... IT'S
HER... I SEE HER... I
RECOGNISE HER...



THORGAL, MY LOVE, CALM
DOWN, PLEASE...



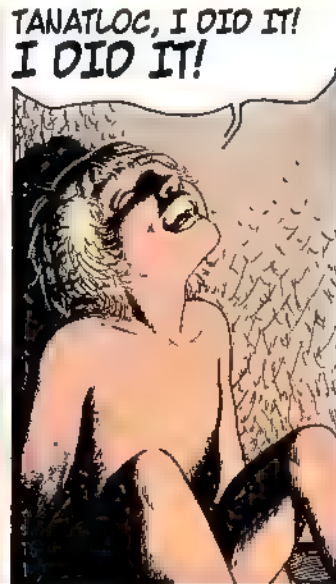
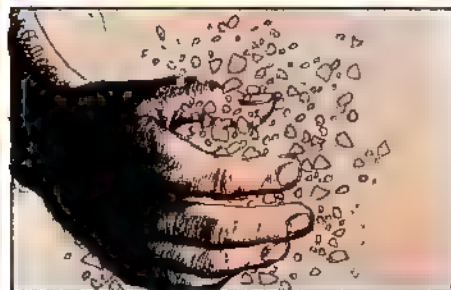
ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR
BAD DREAMS, I'M SURE.
WAIT, I'LL GIVE YOU
SOME WATER...

IT'S NOT A
DREAM, TREE
FOOT. IT'S TRUE:
THORGAL IS
GOING TO DIE.
WE HAVE TO
HELP HIM.

AND AFTER THIS,
YOU'LL KINDLY GO
BACK TO SLEEP.

BUT YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND A THING,
TREE FOOT! I DON'T
WANT ANY OF YOUR
WATER!

I DON'T
WANT
ANY!



YOU ARE SO
BEAUTIFUL, KRISS OF
VALNOR. YOUR SKIN IS
SO MARVELLOUSLY
SOFT...



IF YOU REALLY WANT ME,
I'LL FOLLOW YOU TO THE ENDS
OF THE EARTH.

YOU
LEARN WHAT
TO SAY TO WOMEN
QUICKLY, TALL
THE FIERY...



SO START BY FOLLOW-
ING ME TO THE CAMP.
IT'S TIME TO GO AND
SLEEP. TOMORROW
WE'RE LEAVING AT
DAWN.



ERM... ABOUT THAT...
COULDN'T WE STAY HERE A
DAY OR TWO? WHILE
THORGAL GETS BETTER?

YOU KNOW
VERY WELL
THAT THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE

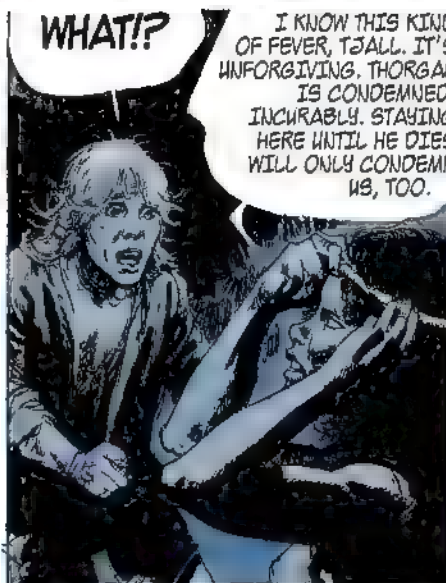


RIGHT NOW, THE CHAAMS
KNOW FOR SURE THAT WE'RE
HERE. THEY'LL BE LOOKING
FOR US, AND EVERY HOUR LOST
LOWERS OUR CHANCES OF
REACHING MAYAXATL
WITHOUT BEING
SEEN.



BUT HOW WILL WE TAKE THORGAL?
HE CAN HARDLY WALK.

WE
WON'T TAKE
HIM.



WHAT!?

I KNOW THIS KIND
OF FEVER, TJALL. IT'S
UNFORGIVING. THORGAL
IS CONDEMNED.
INCURABLY. STAYING
HERE UNTIL HE DIES
WILL ONLY CONDEMN
US, TOO.



BUT THAT'S
NOT POSSIBLE,
KRISS, AND EVEN
IF... AARICIA
WILL NEVER
ACCEPT...

I'M SURE. WE
WON'T TAKE
HER EITHER.



ANYWAY, SHE'S NO USE TO US.

ABANDON THORGAL AND
AARICIA? ... HERE, IN THE MIDDLE
OF THE WILD FOREST? ... NO, THAT
WOULD BE TOO DISHONOURABLE!

I... I
REFUSE!...



ALREADY?

I UNDERSTAND YOUR REACTION, TJALL. YOU'RE YOUNG, IDEALISTIC, LOYAL. THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU. BUT YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO LOOK REALITY STRAIGHT IN THE EYES, FIRMLY, WITHOUT TURNING YOUR HEAD, AS A MAN— ESPECIALLY WHEN THAT REALITY IS PAINFUL.

I... I CAN'T.

IT'S STUPID TO WANT TO PLAY THE HERO AND KILL YOURSELF. YOU HAVE TO BE A WINNER, TJALL. DEAD PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS WRONG. WINNERS, THEY'RE THE ONES WHO STAY ALIVE.

AND I DON'T WANT TO DIE. THINK OF THE GOLD WAITING FOR US, MY COMPANION... OF THE FREE LIFE FULL OF ADVENTURE THAT WE'LL LEAD, YOU AND ME... THINK OF ME, THE ONE YOU CHOSE... THE ONE WHO LOVES YOU...

BUT AARICIA CAN'T KNOW ANYTHING. THAT WOULD BE NEEDLESSLY CRUEL...

THORGAL, WHERE ARE YOU?

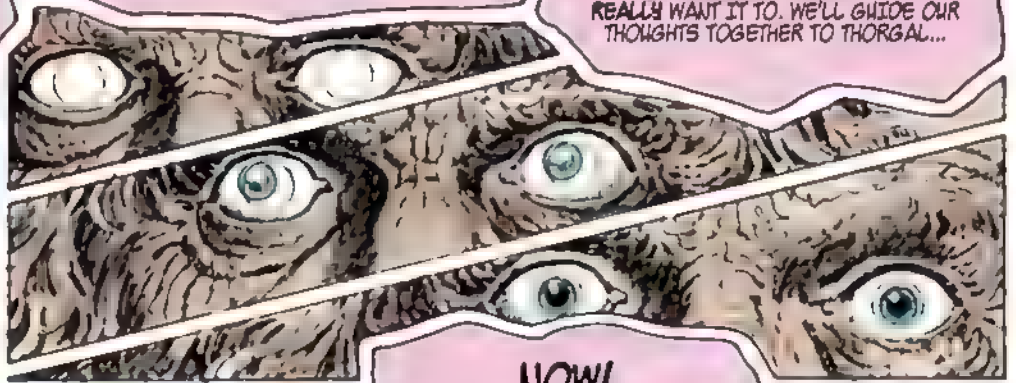
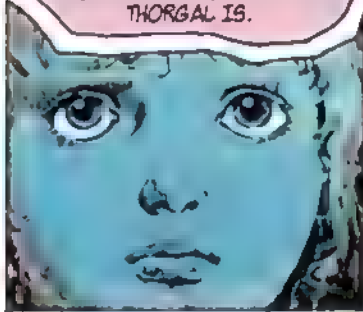
HELP ME, TANATLOC. HELP ME TO SEE THORGAL, WHEREVER HE'S IN DANGER. HELP ME TO HEAL HIM, TO SAVE HIM. I KNOW THAT YOU, YOU CAN DO IT...

I'M HERE, JOLAN. I'M WITH YOU.

I HEARD YOUR CALL AND
I'M GOING TO TRY TO HELP YOU.
WE'LL UNITE OUR ENERGY WAVES
AND, THROUGH YOUR EYES,
CROSS SPACE TO WHEREVER
THORGAL IS.

THOUGHT TRAVELS TO INFINITY, JOLAN

IT CAN CAPTURE IMAGES
AND TRANSPORT ENERGY IF WE
REALLY WANT IT TO. WE'LL GUIDE OUR
THOUGHTS TOGETHER TO THORGAL...



NOW!



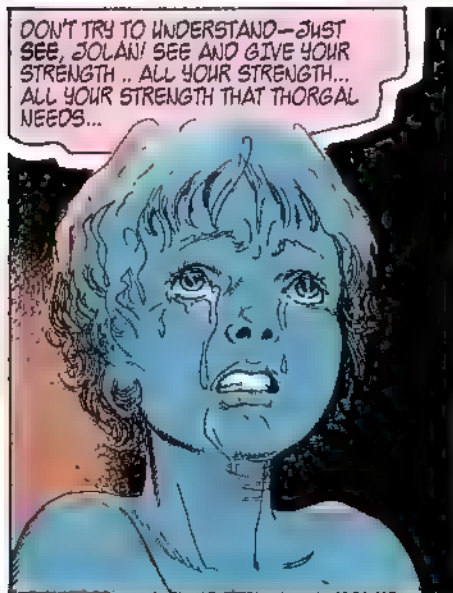
ALL HIS MEMORIES... ALL HIS MEMORIES THAT ESCAPE
HIS MIND LIKE RATS ABANDONING A SINKING SHIP...
IT IS TIME, JOLAN. CONCENTRATE AND SEE!



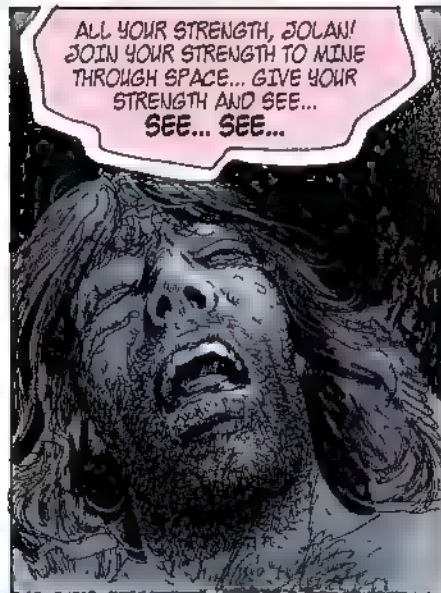
CONCENTRATE ON THE PAIN THAT RACKS HIM...
SEE HIS FEVER... YOU HAVE TO DESTROY THE
FEVER'S GERMS... SEE, JOLAN... SEE THE
STARS THAT FORM THE DESTROYED CELLS
OF HIS BROKEN BONES... YOU HAVE
TO RECREATE THEM...



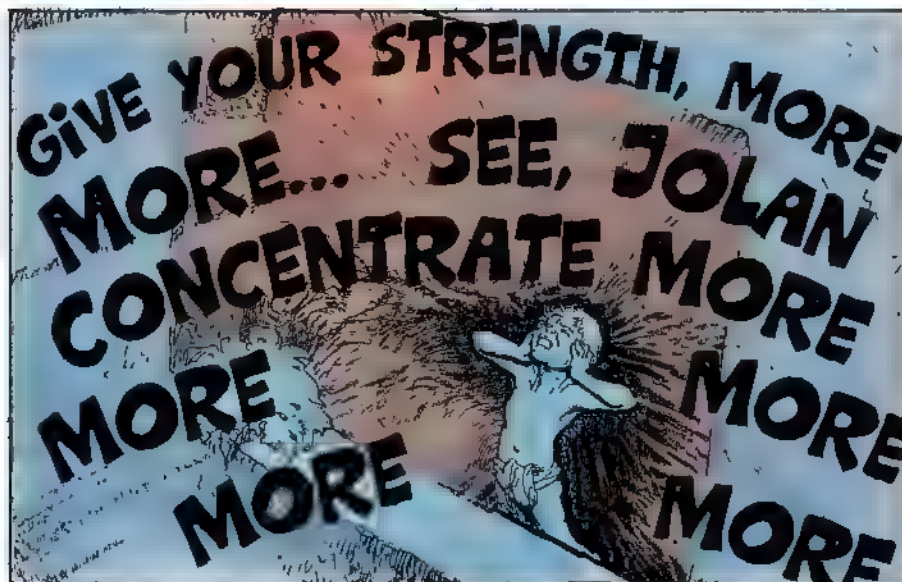
DON'T TRY TO UNDERSTAND—JUST
SEE, JOLAN! SEE AND GIVE YOUR
STRENGTH.. ALL YOUR STRENGTH...
ALL YOUR STRENGTH THAT THORGAL
NEEDS...

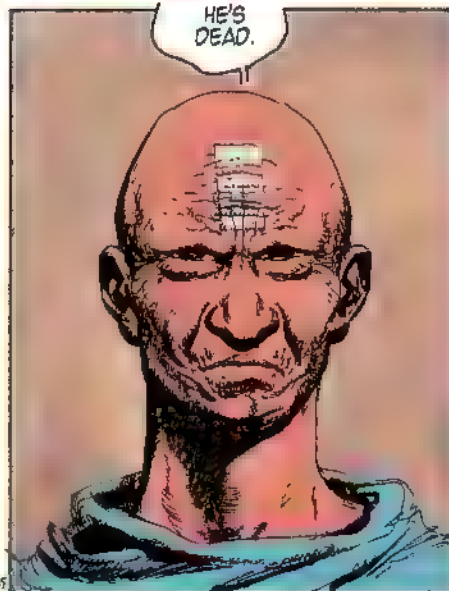
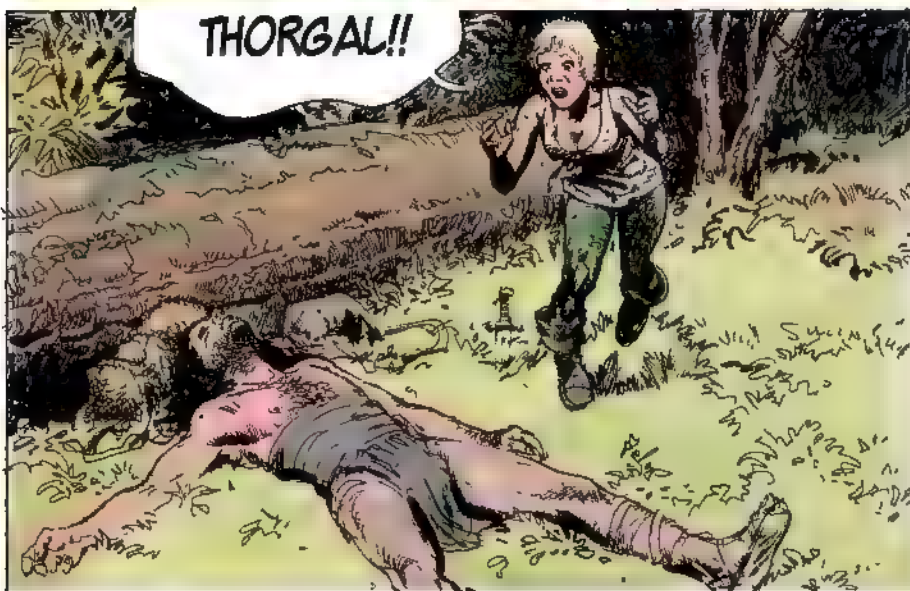
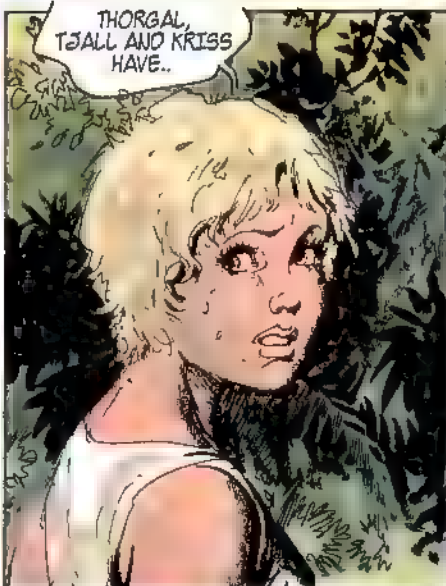
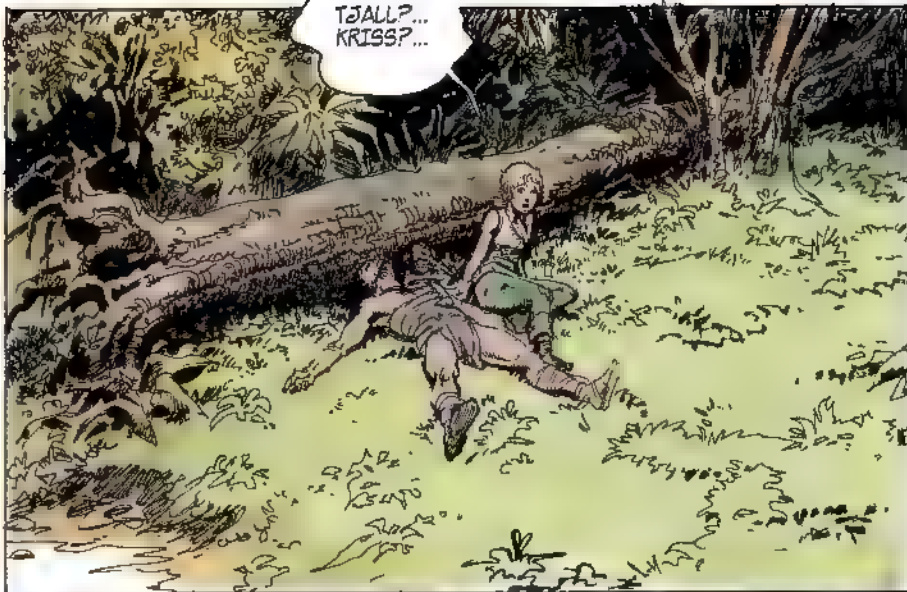


ALL YOUR STRENGTH, JOLAN!
JOIN YOUR STRENGTH TO MINE
THROUGH SPACE... GIVE YOUR
STRENGTH AND SEE...
SEE... SEE...



BE MY EYES... THAT I MAY GUIDE OUR
ENERGIES... TO HIM... TO DEFEAT THE PAIN...
TO REBUILD WHAT IS DESTROYED...
ALL YOUR STRENGTH, JOLAN...

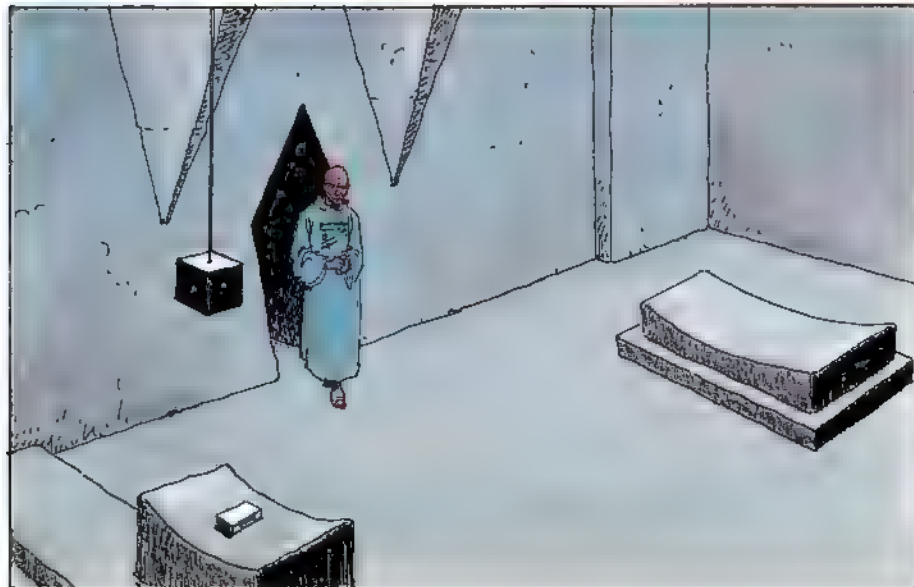
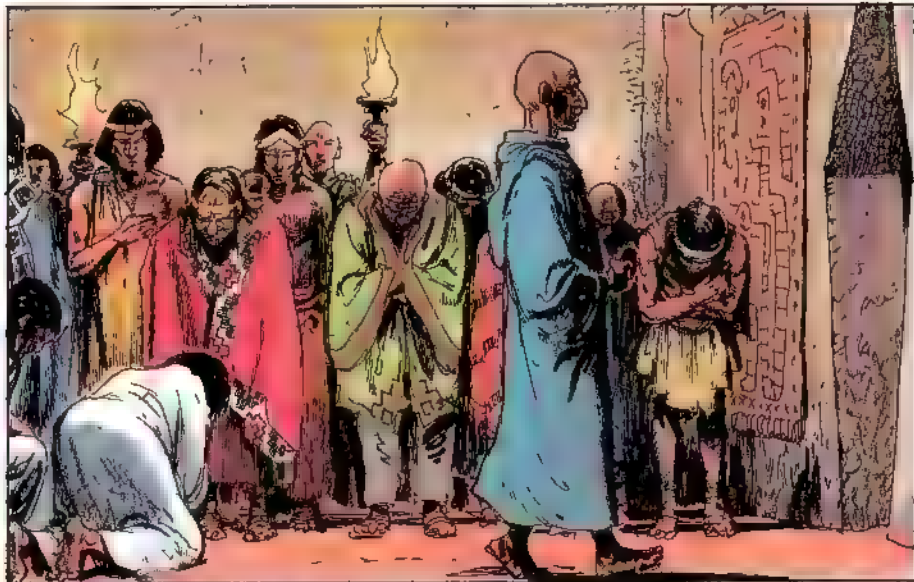


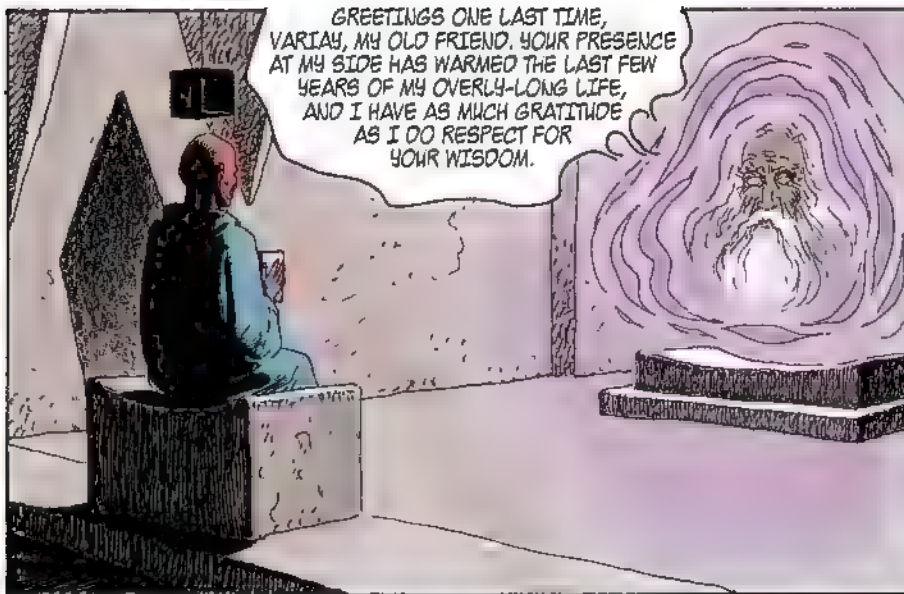


HIS EARTHLY SPIRIT HAS LEFT US THIS NIGHT. OUR LORD TANATLOC HAS GONE BACK TO THE ETERNAL WORLD OF THE GODS, WHENCE HE DESCENDED TO GUIDE OUR PEOPLE. THE XINJIN WILL ETERNALLY HONOUR HIS NAME AND HIS MEMORY.

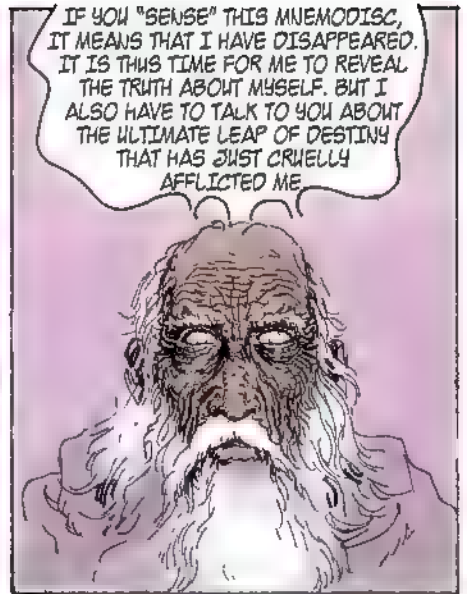


NOW I MUST, WITH THIS MAGIC DISC THAT HE LEFT US, LEARN OF HIS LAST WISHES. I WILL COME BACK TO SHARE THEM WITH YOU.

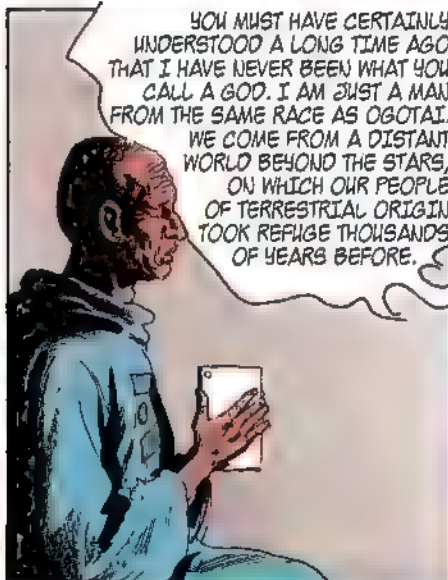




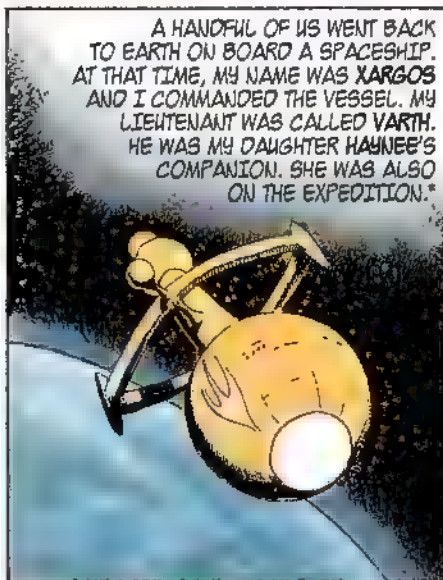
GREETINGS ONE LAST TIME, VARIAN, MY OLD FRIEND. YOUR PRESENCE AT MY SIDE HAS WARMED THE LAST FEW YEARS OF MY OVERLY-LONG LIFE, AND I HAVE AS MUCH GRATITUDE AS I DO RESPECT FOR YOUR WISDOM.



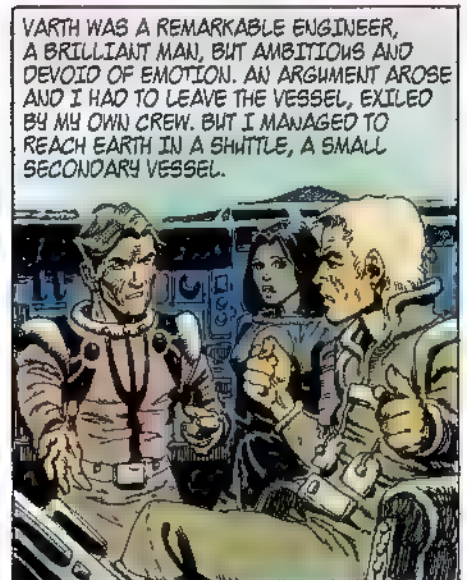
IF YOU "SENSE" THIS MNEMODISC, IT MEANS THAT I HAVE DISAPPEARED. IT IS THIS TIME FOR ME TO REVEAL THE TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF. BUT I ALSO HAVE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE ULTIMATE LEAP OF DESTINY THAT HAS JUST CRUELLY AFFLICTED ME.



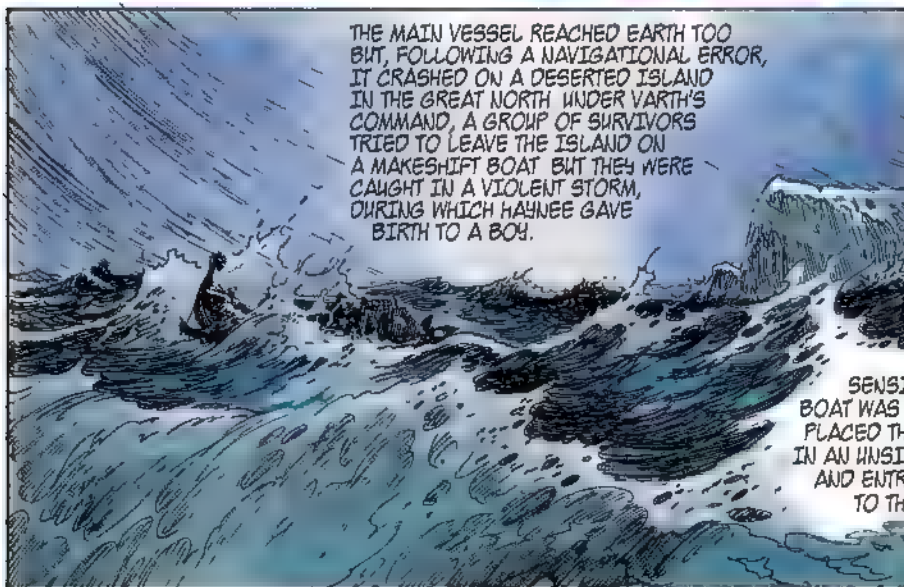
YOU MUST HAVE CERTAINLY UNDERSTOOD A LONG TIME AGO THAT I HAVE NEVER BEEN WHAT YOU CALL A GOD. I AM JUST A MAN FROM THE SAME RACE AS OGOTAI. WE CAME FROM A DISTANT WORLD BEYOND THE STARS, ON WHICH OUR PEOPLE OF TERRESTRIAL ORIGIN TOOK REFUGE THOUSANDS OF YEARS BEFORE.



A HANDFUL OF US WENT BACK TO EARTH ON BOARD A SPACESHIP. AT THAT TIME, MY NAME WAS XARGOS AND I COMMANDED THE VESSEL. MY LIEUTENANT WAS CALLED VARTH. HE WAS MY DAUGHTER HAYNEE'S COMPANION. SHE WAS ALSO ON THE EXPEDITION.*



VARTH WAS A REMARKABLE ENGINEER, A BRILLIANT MAN, BUT AMBITIOUS AND DEVOID OF EMOTION. AN ARGUMENT AROSE AND I HAD TO LEAVE THE VESSEL, EXILED BY MY OWN CREW. BUT I MANAGED TO REACH EARTH IN A SHUTTLE, A SMALL SECONDARY VESSEL.

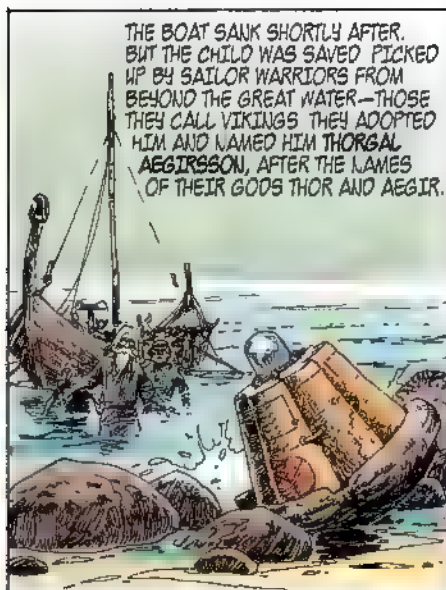


THE MAIN VESSEL REACHED EARTH TOO BUT, FOLLOWING A NAVIGATIONAL ERROR, IT CRASHED ON A DESERTED ISLAND IN THE GREAT NORTH UNDER VARTH'S COMMAND. A GROUP OF SURVIVORS TRIED TO LEAVE THE ISLAND ON A MAKESHIFT BOAT BUT THEY WERE CAUGHT IN A VIOLENT STORM, DURING WHICH HAYNEE GAVE BIRTH TO A BOY.

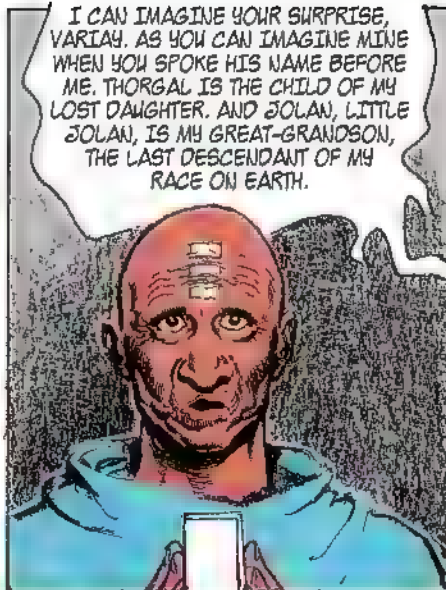


SENSING THE BOAT WAS LOST, VARTH PLACED THE NEWBORN IN AN UNSINKABLE RAFT AND ENTRUSTED HIM TO THE SEA.

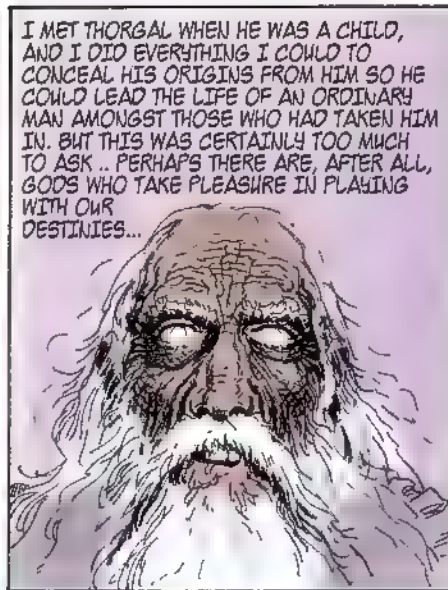
*SEE CHILD OF THE STARS.



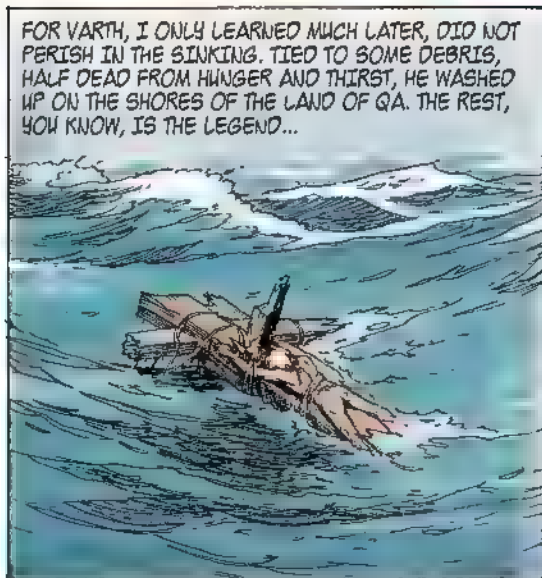
THE BOAT SANK SHORTLY AFTER, BUT THE CHILD WAS SAVED PICKED UP BY SAILOR WARRIORS FROM BEYOND THE GREAT WATER—THOSE THEY CALL VIKINGS. THEY ADOPTED HIM AND NAMED HIM THORGAL AEGIRSSON, AFTER THE NAMES OF THEIR GODS THOR AND AEGIR.



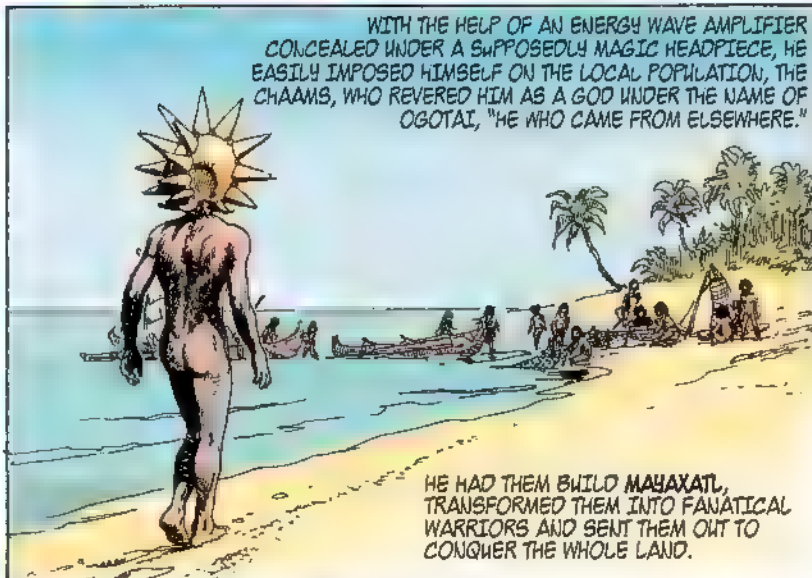
I CAN IMAGINE YOUR SURPRISE, VARIAY. AS YOU CAN IMAGINE MINE WHEN YOU SPOKE HIS NAME BEFORE ME. THORGAL IS THE CHILD OF MY LOST DAUGHTER. AND JOLAN, LITTLE JOLAN, IS MY GREAT-GRANDSON, THE LAST DESCENDANT OF MY RACE ON EARTH.



I MET THORGAL WHEN HE WAS A CHILD, AND I DID EVERYTHING I COULD TO CONCEAL HIS ORIGINS FROM HIM SO HE COULD LEAD THE LIFE OF AN ORDINARY MAN AMONGST THOSE WHO HAD TAKEN HIM IN. BUT THIS WAS CERTAINLY TOO MUCH TO ASK... PERHAPS THERE ARE, AFTER ALL, GODS WHO TAKE PLEASURE IN PLAYING WITH OUR DESTINIES...

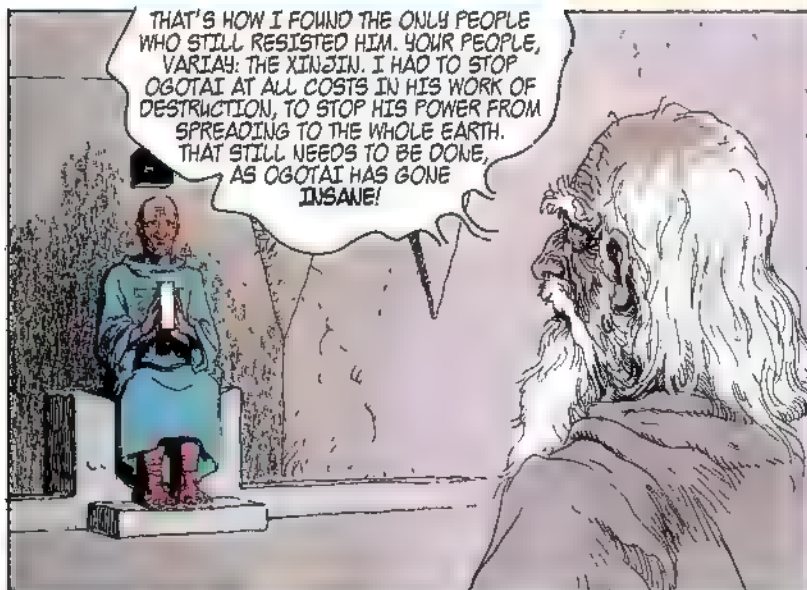


FOR VARTH, I ONLY LEARNED MUCH LATER, DID NOT PERISH IN THE SINKING. TIED TO SOME DEBRIS, HALF DEAD FROM HUNGER AND THIRST, HE WASHED UP ON THE SHORES OF THE LAND OF QA. THE REST, YOU KNOW, IS THE LEGEND...

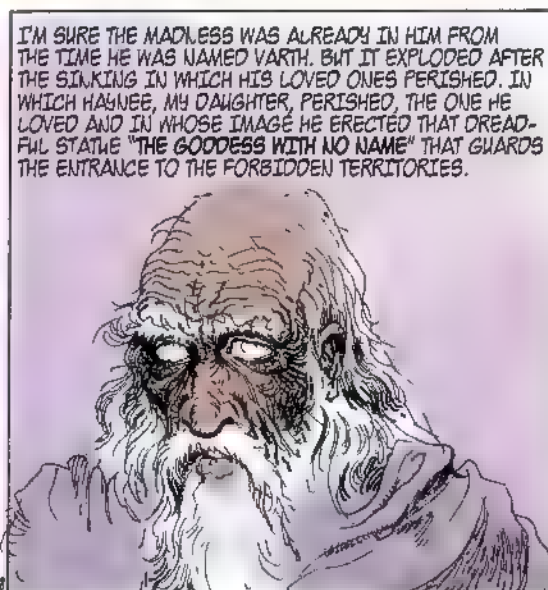


WITH THE HELP OF AN ENERGY WAVE AMPLIFIER CONCEALED UNDER A SUPPOSEDLY MAGIC HEADPIECE, HE EASILY IMPOSED HIMSELF ON THE LOCAL POPULATION, THE CHAAMS, WHO REVERED HIM AS A GOD UNDER THE NAME OF OGOTAI, "HE WHO CAME FROM ELSEWHERE."

HE HAD THEM BUILD MAYAXATL, TRANSFORMED THEM INTO FANATICAL WARRIORS AND SENT THEM OUT TO CONQUER THE WHOLE LAND.



THAT'S HOW I FOUND THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO STILL RESISTED HIM. YOUR PEOPLE, VARIAY: THE XINJIN. I HAD TO STOP OGOTAI AT ALL COSTS IN HIS WORK OF DESTRUCTION, TO STOP HIS POWER FROM SPREADING TO THE WHOLE EARTH. THAT STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE, AS OGOTAI HAS GONE INSANE!



I'M SURE THE MADNESS WAS ALREADY IN HIM FROM THE TIME HE WAS NAMED VARTH. BUT IT EXPLODED AFTER THE SINKING IN WHICH HIS LOVED ONES PERISHED. IN WHICH HAYNEE, MY DAUGHTER, PERISHED, THE ONE HE LOVED AND IN WHOSE IMAGE HE ERECTED THAT DREADFUL STATUE "THE GODDESS WITH NO NAME" THAT GUARDS THE ENTRANCE TO THE FORBIDDEN TERRITORIES.

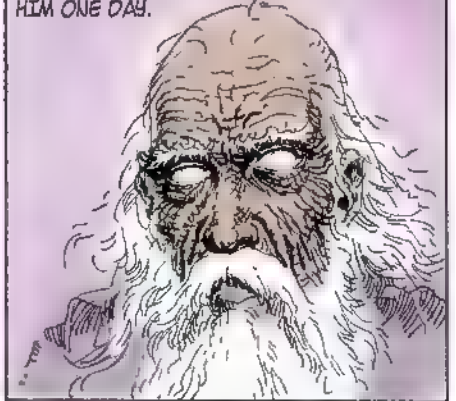
WHEN I SENSED THAT I WAS GOING TO DIE WITHOUT HAVING DEFEATED HIM, I UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP THE MURDEROUS MADNESS OF THE MAN FROM MY RACE: KILL HIM. HAVE HIM MURDERED BY A MERCENARY AWDACIOUS ENOUGH TO FACE THE TERROR INSPIRED BY A LIVING AND BLOODTHIRSTY GOD. IT WASN'T AN EASY DECISION TO TAKE, VARIAN.



HOW FOUND THIS MERCENARY BEYOND THE GREAT WATER: KRISS OF VALNOR. LETTING HER FREELY CHOOSE HER CREW BY ANY MEANS. HOW COULD I HAVE IMAGINED FOR ONE MOMENT THAT ONE OF THOSE WOULD BE THORGAL?



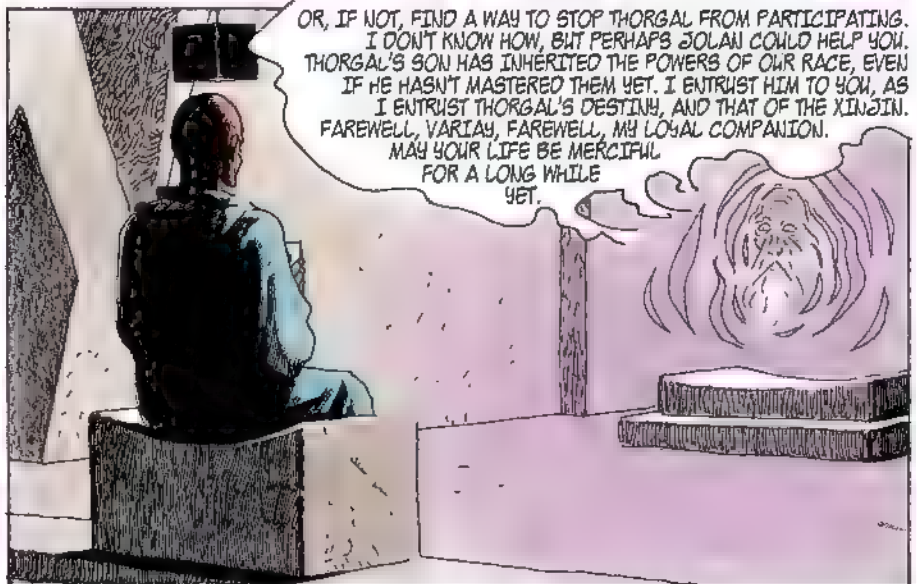
DO YOU NOW UNDERSTAND THE TORMENT THAT RACKS ME? I HAVE UNWITTINGLY SENT MY GRANDSON TO COMMIT THE MOST ABOMINABLE OF CRIMES: TO KILL HIS OWN FATHER! THE FACT THAT HE DOESN'T KNOW IT DOESN'T TAKE AWAY ANY OF THE HORROR OF THIS DEED, AS THE GODS, IF THEY EXIST, WILL KNOW AND WILL PUNISH HIM ONE DAY.



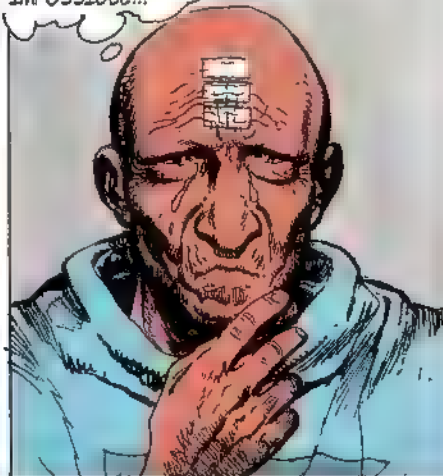
NOW, YOU KNOW AS I DO THAT KRISS OF VALNOR AND HER COMPANIONS WILL NOT LEARN THE TRUE GOAL OF THEIR MISSION UNTIL AFTER REACHING MAHAXATL, WHEN THEY CAN NO LONGER GO BACK. IN THE NAME OF OUR OLD FRIENDSHIP, I BEG YOU TO CALL OFF THIS MISSION.



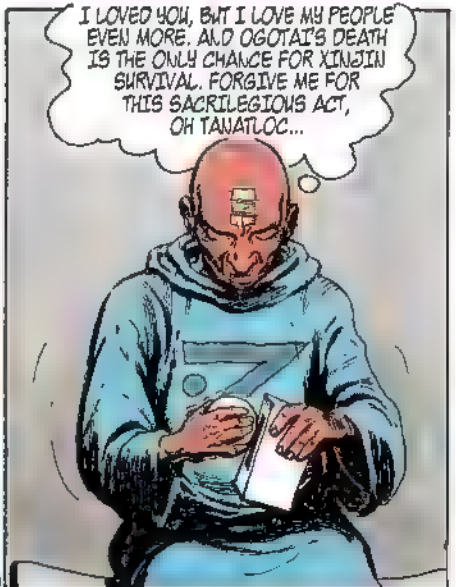
OR, IF NOT, FIND A WAY TO STOP THORGAL FROM PARTICIPATING. I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT PERHAPS JOLAN COULD HELP YOU. THORGAL'S SON HAS INHERITED THE POWERS OF OUR RACE, EVEN IF HE HASN'T MASTERED THEM YET. I ENTRUST HIM TO YOU, AS I ENTRUST THORGAL'S DESTINY, AND THAT OF THE XINGIN. FAREWELL, VARIAN, FAREWELL, MY LOYAL COMPANION. MAY YOUR LIFE BE MERCIFUL FOR A LONG WHILE YET.



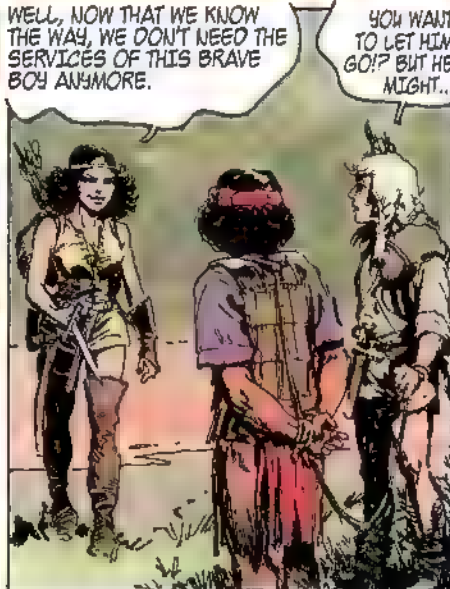
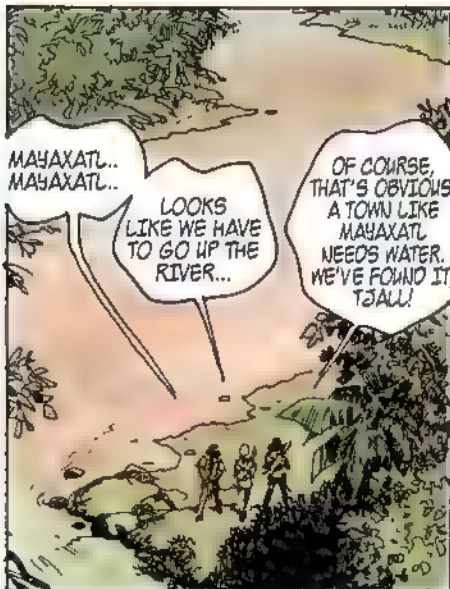
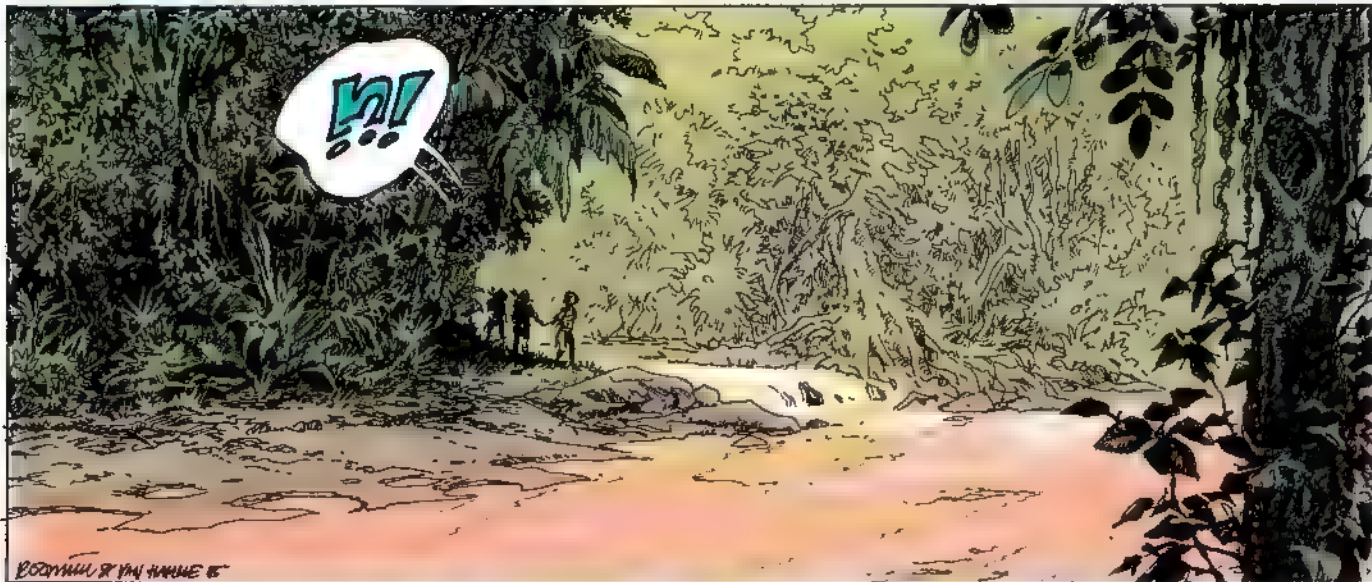
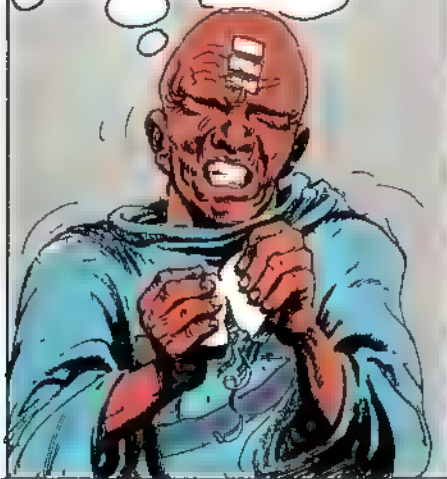
I LOVED YOU, TOO, TANATLOC. MAN OR GOD, I LOVED YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE FAIR AND GOOD. BUT WHAT YOU ASK OF ME IS IMPOSSIBLE...



I LOVED YOU, BUT I LOVE MY PEOPLE EVEN MORE. AND OGOAT'S DEATH IS THE ONLY CHANCE FOR XINGIN SURVIVAL. FORGIVE ME FOR THIS SACRILEGIOUS ACT, OH TANATLOC...

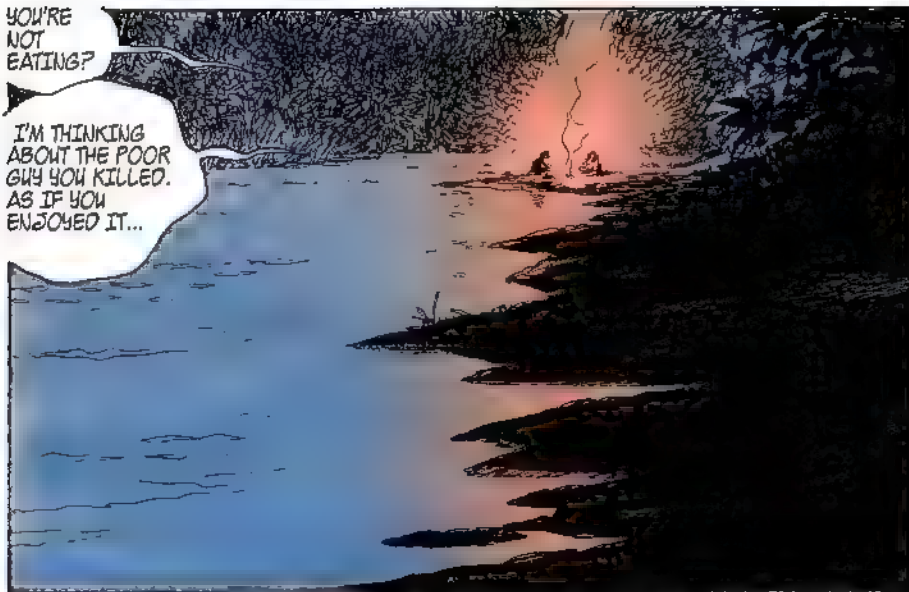


... BUT NOBODY CAN EVER LEARN
THE SECRET THAT YOU TOLD ME.
NOBODY WILL EVER KNOW!



YOU'RE
NOT
EATING?

I'M THINKING
ABOUT THE POOR
GUY YOU KILLED.
AS IF YOU
ENJOYED IT...



OF COURSE, YOU'LL TELL ME IT WAS
NECESSARY. LIKE IT WAS NECESSARY
TO ABANDON THORGAL. BUT I CAN'T
HELP IT... I... I'M SO ASHAMED OF
MYSELF...

MY
POOR
TJALL...



POINTLESS REGRETS ARE
THE FORTUNES OF THE WEAK.
NOT OURS. WHAT WOULD YOU
HAVE GAINED BY STAYING
AND ROTTING THERE, YOUR
HAND IN YOUR DYING
FRIEND'S HAND?

MY DIGNITY,
PERHAPS. AND I
WONDER ABOUT
AARICIA, TOO... WE
COULD HAVE AT LEAST
TRIED TO CONVINCE
HER INSTEAD OF
RUNNING OFF IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
LIKE COWARDS.



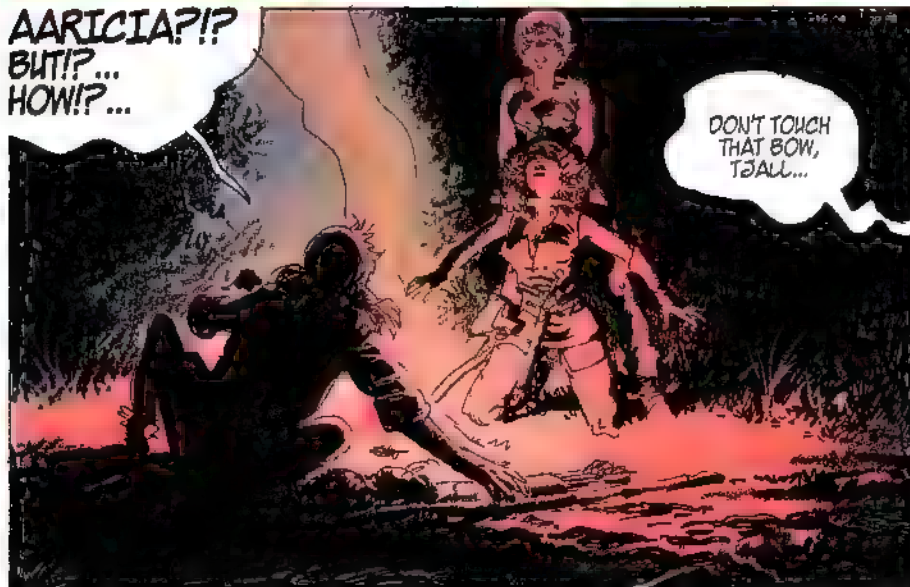
DON'T COUNT ON ME TO CRY
OVER HER. I WARNED HER—ALL
SHE HAD TO DO WAS STAY ON
HER ISLAND, STIRRING HER
POTS. IT'S THE ONLY
THING SHE'S GOOD
AT ANYWAY.



ARE YOU SO
SURE OF THAT,
MY DEAR?



AARICIA?!?
BUT!?...
HOW!?...



DON'T TOUCH
THAT BOW,
TJALL...

IT WOULD TROUBLE
ME TO HAVE TO
BREAK YOU IN
TWO.



???

THORGAL! IT'S
FANTASTIC! I'M
SO HAPPY THAT...
BUT HOW IN THE
WORLD?...

NO THANKS TO
YOUR TRUSTY
FRIENDSHIP,
THAT'S FOR
SURE

AND YOUR JOY COMES
A LITTLE LATE: THIS
VIPER DIDN'T HAVE
MUCH TROUBLE
MAKING YOU DANCE
TO THE SOUND OF
HER POISONED
MUSIC.

REALLY, THORGAL, YOU NEVER
CEASE TO AMAZE ME. YOU'LL
HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO ME ONE
DAY HOW YOU MANAGED TO
COME BACK FROM THE
LAND OF THE DEAD.

IF YOU WANT,
I CAN ALWAYS
SHOW YOU HOW
TO GET THERE...

BUT I'M HAPPY THAT YOU
MADE IT TOO... HEY,
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M CLIPPING YOUR
CLAWS TO REMOVE
ANY TEMPTATION. YOU
CAN LET HER GO,
AARICIA.

WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE
AND WILL TRY TO COMPLETE
THIS GOLD-GRABBING
MISSION TO THE
END. BUT UNDER
MY COMMAND.

WHAT?
I... I FORBID
YOU!

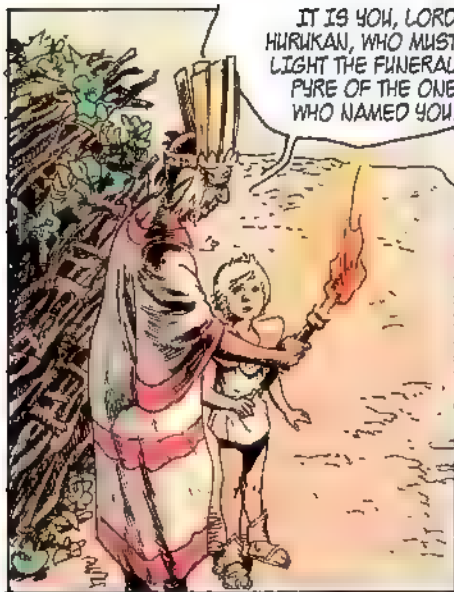
YOU CAN FORBID US
NOTHING NOW, KRISS OF
VALNOR: I KNOW WHERE
JOLAN IS!

YOU KNOW
WHERE?... HOW?
WHERE ARE
THEY?

I KNOW, THAT'S ALL. DON'T
ASK ME ANY QUESTIONS.
JUST GO AND LOOK AFTER
YOUR PRETTY FRIEND...

WE'LL SLEEP A LITTLE
DISTANCE AWAY. YOU'LL NEED
ALL NIGHT TO GET HER TO
CALM DOWN.





IT IS YOU, LORD HURUKAN, WHO MUST LIGHT THE FUNERAL PYRE OF THE ONE WHO NAMED YOU.



I... I REALLY HAVE TO DO IT?

YOU HAVE TO, JOLAN. SO THAT THE SPIRIT OF OUR FRIEND CAN JOIN THOSE OF HIS ANCESTORS.



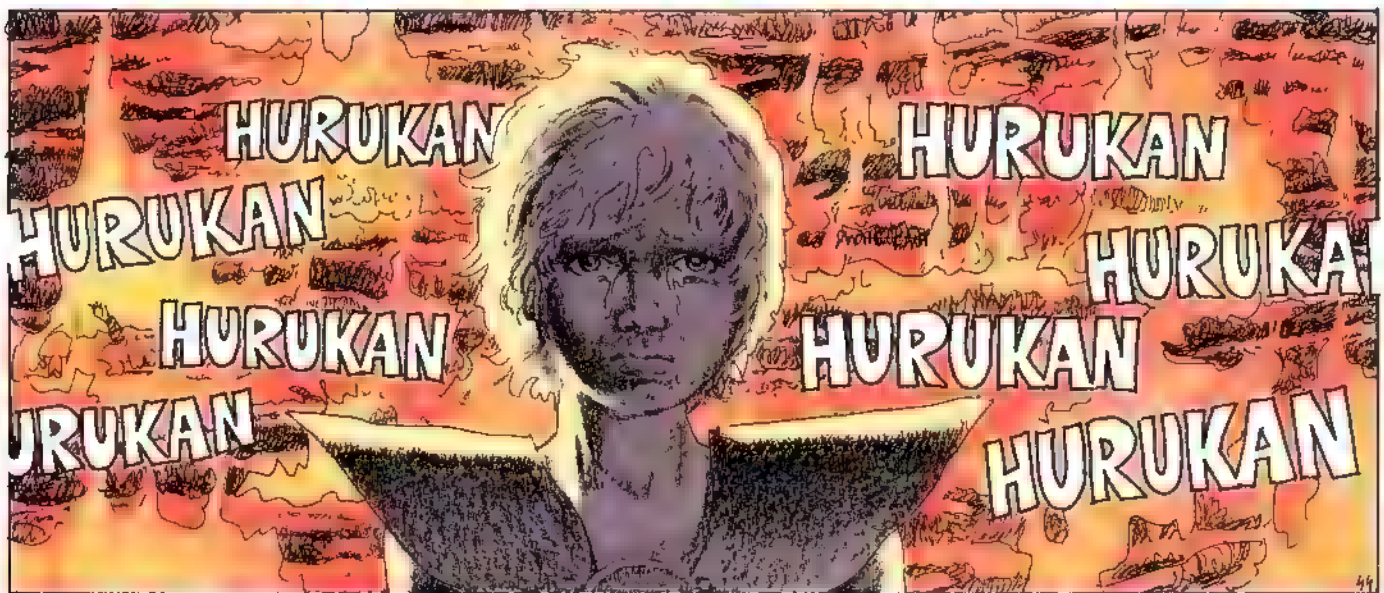
FAREWELL, TANATLOC. I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU.



LONG LIVE HURUKAN!

HURUKAN
HURUKAN
HURUKAN
HURUKAN
HURUKAN

HURUKAN
HURUKAN
HURUKAN
HURUKAN
HURUKAN





THE RIVER'S
GETTING MORE AND
MORE DIFFICULT
TO FOLLOW...

WE'D DO BETTER TO TRY AND PASS
OVER THAT HILL. IS THAT ALL RIGHT
FOR YOU?

WITH YOU,
EVERYTHING'S
ALL RIGHT FOR ME,
MY LOVE. TO FEEL
YOU AT MY SIDE
AGAIN GIVES ME
WINGS.

THORGAL...

YES?

PLEASE, THORGAL... HIT ME,
INSULT ME, TREAT ME LIKE THE
LEAST OF THE SLAVES, BUT SAY
SOMETHING... TRY TO FORGIVE
ME...

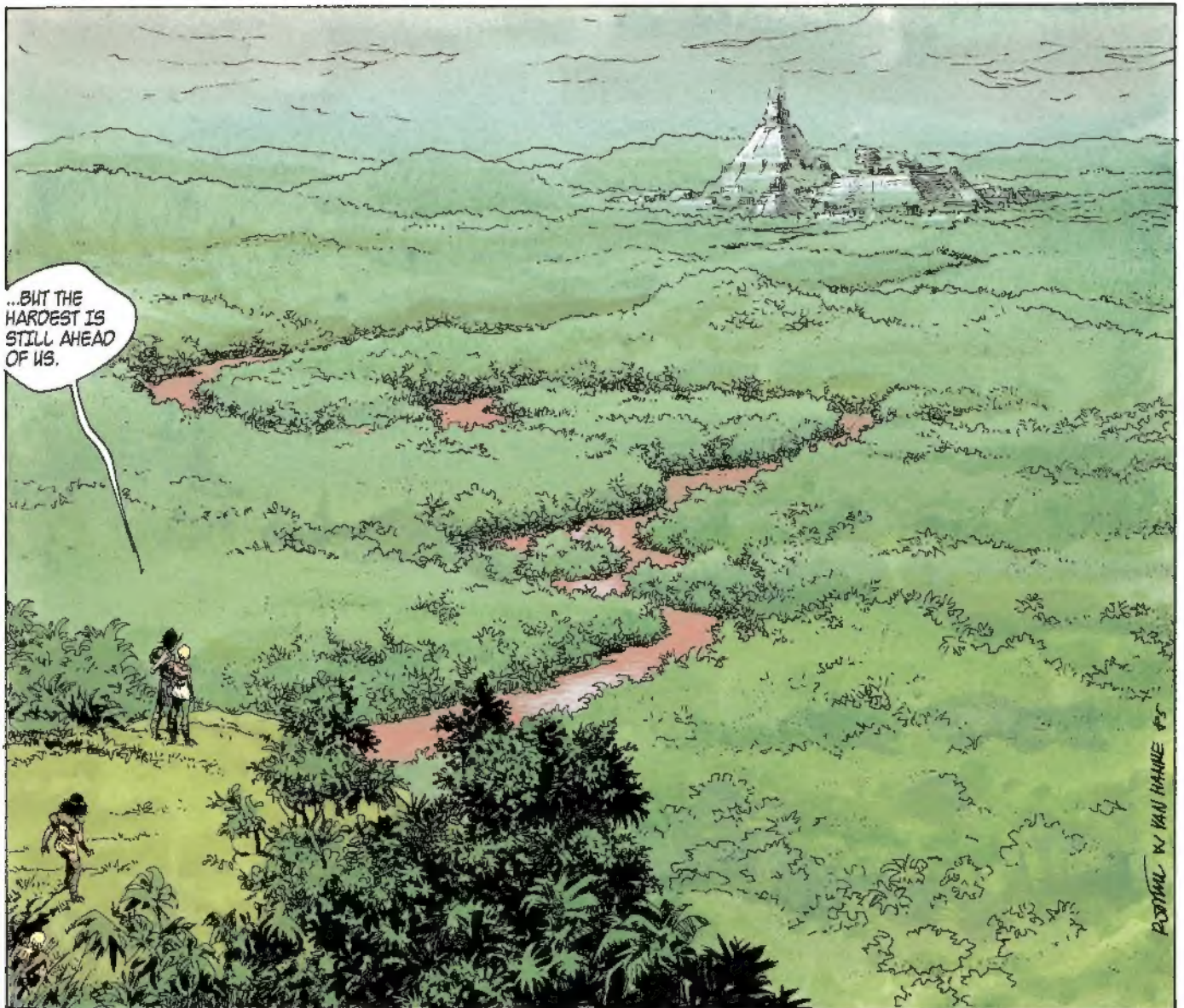


COME ON, MY
LOVE, THE SLOPE
LOOKS TOUGH.



POOR
FOOL!

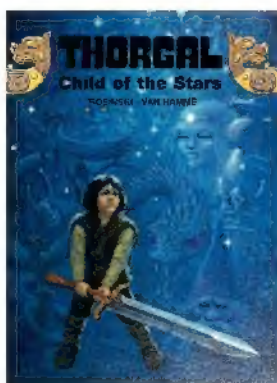




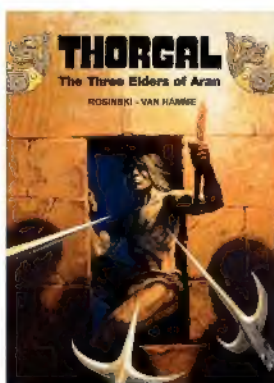
THE END

THORGAL

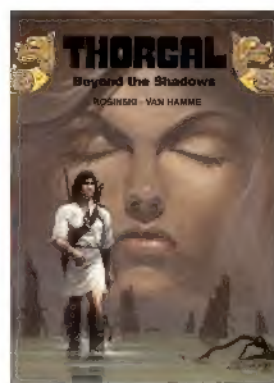
THE GODS HAVE PUT A MAN
TO THE TEST



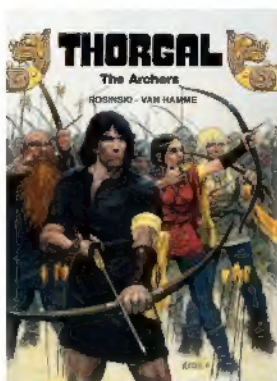
❶ Child of the Stars
Incl. Aaricia



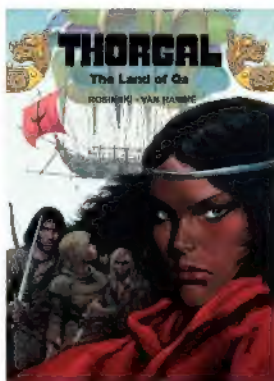
❷ The Three Elders of Aran
Incl. The Black Galley



❸ Beyond the Shadows
Incl. The Fall of Brek Zarith



❹ The Archers
Incl. Alinoe



❺ The Land of Qa
Incl. The Eyes of Tanatloc



❻ City of the Lost God
Incl. Between Earth and Sun



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